

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Oberland Trade Report.

VOL. LXX.]

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MARRIAGE.

On the 26th October, at Union Church Hongkong, by the Rev. C. H. Hickling, FRANK MALCOLM CRAWFORD, son of the late D. R. Crawford, to NELLIE EADIE, eldest daughter of H. B. O. STEVENSON, of Glasgow and Liverpool.

DEATHS.

On October 17th, at Shanghai, WALTER JOHN CHICK, late of Changsha, aged 51 years, deeply regretted.

On October 17th, at Wusih, China, Mrs. JOHN H. STEWART, of Trenton, N.J., U.S.A., aged 61 years, mother of Mrs. G. F. Mosher.

On October 18th, at Shanghai, ALFRED DENNY LOWE.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 1st instant arrived on the 27th instant.

The Siberian Mail of the 1st and 2nd instant arrived on the 27th instant.

The Siberian Mail of the 6th instant arrived on the 29th instant.

The Siberian Mail of the 8th instant arrived on the 29th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

A fine of \$7,000 was imposed by a Singapore Magistrate the other day on a Chinese for having been in possession of illicit chander.

Dr. Wilbur Chapman, the leader of the Chapman-Alexander Mission Party, is reported in the Japan papers as being seriously ill in Korea. The nature of his illness is not stated in the telegram.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. P. Bland, accompanied by Dr. Gattrell, passed through Tientsin on the 14th instant, en route to Peking. Mr. Bland is much better and appears to be completely recovering from his recent illness.

A Chinese firm at Shanghai was fined \$200 last week for imitating Messrs. Murray and Lanman's Florida Water trade-mark. The Mixed Court directed the fine to be divided between two local charities in equal proportions.

The United States Consul at Halifax, General David F. Wilber, who has been appointed to a similar position at Kobe, will be succeeded at Halifax by Mr. James W. Ragsdale, who is at present Consul-General at St. Petersburg and was formerly at Tientsin.

Telegraphic news has reached Japan of the death of Mr. E. H. Gill, one of the oldest residents of Kobe. He died at Banff, Canada, where he went to recruit after an illness in Kobe during the early summer. Mr. Gill had for many years been in the firm of Messrs. Browne and Company. The body has been embalmed and is to be brought back to Kobe for interment.

A new Y.M.C.A. building was formally dedicated at Manila last week, and Mr. Fairbanks, ex President of the United States, delivered an address on the occasion. The total cost of the building was P.245,548.91. President Taft sent a telegram reading: "Congratulations on energy and generosity shown in erection building. Have every confidence in its great future."

Mr. A. Schmidt, the Commissioner of the Chinese Customs at Harbin, met with a nasty accident recently. Owing to a swerve of his horse he was thrown and, either by the fall or a kick, his jaw was broken. Pluckily remounting, he rode home and was taken to the hospital, where his jaw was reset and no serious damage is likely to result. In fact, Mr. Schmidt was at work the next day with his face incased in plaster of Paris.

Padang, a West Sumatran port well known in the commercial world for its coffee exports, stands in the enviable position of having had no failures among its traders, European, Chinese, and native for years, so says a Batavia paper. Trade rests there on such solid foundations that several firms have had to move into new offices to meet the increase of business. The old offices are taken up for trading purposes the moment they are vacated.

The Japanese Foreign Office is to dispatch a number of Trade Commissioners abroad to report constantly on the conditions of trade and industry and to promote the development of Japanese commerce and industry, taking a position corresponding to that of the Financial Agent of the Government in financial matters. At first four Commissioners will be appointed—two in Europe, one in America, and one in China. The vote for the officials is included in the Budget for next year.

At a meeting of the Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Ltd., held at Shanghai last week, it was decided to recommend, subject to the audit of the accounts, at the forthcoming annual meeting of shareholders, the payment of a dividend of Tls. 10 per share (20 per cent.) for the year ended August 31, 1909.

Arrangements have just been made for the importation into the United States of 50,000 tons of Chinese pig-iron. This is not the first consignment, say the *N.-C. Daily News*. A large cargo of steel-making pig-iron from the Han-yang Iron and Steel Works, Hankow, has already been delivered in New York at 70s per ton c.i.f., which is well below the price quoted by Pittsburg smelters for delivery on the Atlantic seaboard. Besides a wealth of raw materials in the Yangtze Valley, the natural shipping facilities are good.

The new French gunboat *Loudart de Lagree* arrived at Hankow from Kiukiang recently in 13 hours. This vessel is of the most modern type and commanded by her designer, Capt. Audmart, who was formerly in command of the *Oly* and has made several voyages to Chungking. After coaling at Hankow she was to proceed up the Han River to Changsha, later going to Ichang, where she will prepare for her journey up the rapids. Her commander expects to make the voyage from Ichang to Chungking, where he will turn over the vessel to her new commander, he himself returning to France.

At the last meeting of the Kulangsu (Amoy) Municipal Council the Captain-Superintendent of Police reported the steps that have been taken to prevent the spread of hydrophobia within the Settlement. All dogs, whether owned by foreigners or Chinese, are, until further notice, to be kept tied up and under control. If allowed out they must wear muzzles, even if they are being led on chains, &c. Muzzles have been ordered and will be supplied at cost price by the Council on application. This order came into force on the 29th September, when the Council invited, by "Express," the earnest co-operation of both Foreign and Chinese residents in the Settlement in their endeavours to stamp out rabies. Instructions were also given that any dogs found without muzzles after the 29th September were to be destroyed. The muzzles arrived on the 4th October, and have since been issued to owners of dogs on application.

A quiet, unassuming but eminently useful and public-spirited citizen was lost to the Shanghai community last week when Mr. Alfred Denny Lowe, until recently the respected *taipan* of Messrs. Geddes and Co., succumbed to an intestinal trouble of some duration. Mr. Lowe did excellent work for Shanghai as a member of the Municipal Council, and socially he was prominent in the A.D.C., the St. George's Society and other organizations. He had been in Shanghai upwards of twenty-five years. He came out originally as *Chazee* for Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. Since the beginning of the present tea season Mr. Lowe had occupied the position of tea-inspector for the Trading Company (Messrs. Molchanoff, Pechatnoff & Co.) at Hankow and in his new position had been very successful until illness prevented him from continuing business. He leaves a widow—a member of a very popular Shanghai family—and five children, three of whom are now in the Homeland at school.

HONGKONG'S SUBSIDIARY COINAGE PROBLEM.

(Daily Press, October 25th)

The debate on the Estimates which took place in the Legislative Council last week was chiefly noteworthy on account of the proposal brought forward by the Hon. Mr. OSBORNE for dealing with the vexed problem of our depreciated subsidiary coinage, and so "without injury to any interests, and without friction, end a situation which is intolerable to trade." Mr. OSBORNE's remedy is a new coinage redeemable at par. He contended that the Hongkong Government has no responsibility, moral or otherwise, for the millions of Hongkong coins in China. "They were sold," he said, "as a commodity, —just as a merchant sells his wares, and the Government, never having by promise implied or otherwise, undertaken to redeem them, is no more under an obligation to do so than a merchant is under an obligation to receive back merchandise which has fallen in value since he sold it." H. E. the GOVERNOR described this as a very debatable contention and observed that the objection which has been raised to the proposal is that it is an immoral one; that it means repudiation. Mr. OSBORNE himself said that every honourable man would like to see redemption at par applied as a remedy, but "however much we may yearn after virtue in the abstract, on this particular occasion it becomes impossible when the cost is taken into account." No doubt the Chinese who hold this coin in Kwangtung would also like to have it redeemed at par, or most of the present holders, in all probability, acquired it at its depreciated value. The original holders have already suffered, and if the present holders suffer from the demonetisation of the coinage, and its reduction to bullion value, we must not overlook the fact that this action on the part of the Hongkong Government would at the same time help to rehabilitate the Kwangtung currency. Therefore, while holders of Hongkong coin would suffer, the population of Kwangtung as a whole would stand to benefit, if any large proportion of the forty million dollars' worth of these coins which China absorbed remains in circulation. The Hongkong Government made no pretence of supplying China with a currency, and there is a great deal to be said for treating what she took away as analogous to a commodity purchased. Moreover, inasmuch as the excessive output of the Canton mint is responsible for the depreciation of the Hongkong subsidiary coinage circulating in China and within the Colony, it would be monstrous to expect the Government of this Colony to redeem the coinage at par. There are, however, many complications in the problem, and one hesitates to dogmatise. As, however, the Government has promised to give the proposal submitted by the Hon. Mr. OSBORNE the most careful consideration, and hopes for some expression of public opinion on the subject, we may put forward for the purposes of discussion the view that the adoption of Mr. OSBORNE's proposal would set up the danger of creating distrust and suspicion of the entire currency of the Colony, and thus injuriously affect the trade of the Colony with Canton. Few Chinese on the mainland would be likely to have any proper appreciation of the reasons for the repudiation of the Colony's subsidiary coin. Is it not conceivable that the implicit confidence which thousands of the population of Kwangtung province now place in the Hongkong dollar and the Hongkong bank note would give place to a sense of

insecurity and fear lest the silver dollar and the bank note, like the subsidiary coins, should one fine day be suddenly repudiated? Only ignorance, of course, could breed such a panic, but in the consideration of the question, the ignorance of the Chinese population in regard to currency matters is a matter to which some attention ought to be paid. With regard to the bearing of the change on the Colony, His EXCELLENCY remarked that even if a new coinage were introduced and circulated at par there is still the query as to whether it would wholly drive out the Chinese subsidiary coinage. We do not imagine that it would; but that is no reason why the Government of Hongkong should decline to provide a subsidiary currency and maintain it at its par value. There would not be the same heavy drain of the new currency into China—especially if the coins had a deckled edge which made them easily distinguishable—as occurred in the case of the present coinage; but unless there is prohibition of Chinese currency in the Colony—which we agree with the Hon. Mr. OSBORNE it would now be inadvisable to advocate—two standards of currency would come more generally into use than is the case at the present time. Where transactions are in subsidiary coins the Canton twenty-cent piece has practically become the standard of value in this Colony. There are some Chinese firms with this standard for all transactions. For instance, in the largest Chinese retail establishment—an emporium which aspires to be the WHITELEY'S of Hongkong—prices are fixed in subsidiary coin, and if a customer tenders a banknote in payment for his purchase he is allowed the discount rate for the day, just as if he had changed his note for subsidiary coin at a money changer's. While it would be too much to expect that the new coinage would immediately drive out the Chinese coins, it is obvious that the new coins would be far more generally used than are the present coins, for it would be better worth the while of the shopkeeper, the ferry and tram companies and everybody else to insist upon them. It would probably force all Chinese shopkeepers to have two prices for their wares—a price in Hongkong currency and a price in Canton currency, as with the thousands of Chinese who are brought into the Colony by the steamers daily it is inevitable that a lot of Chinese subsidiary coin will remain in circulation. As we have already suggested, it may be that the demonetisation of the present subsidiary coinage of the Colony will result in Chinese coins rising to par value—and if only the Chinese authorities would then so regulate the output of coins from their mints as to maintain them at par value, it would be a blessing to the whole population of Kwangtung—though it must be added that with the difference in value removed, it would be much more difficult in this Colony to drive Chinese subsidiary coin out of circulation.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, October 26th.)

Provincial Parliaments or Deliberative Councils, as they are variously called, are now established in all the provincial capitals of China. They were inaugurated on the first day of the ninth moon—that is to say, on October 14th—and so the machinery of Constitutional Government is now at work. The experiment will be watched with close attention throughout the world. When the elections were complete and the Councils were about to assemble an Imperial Edict

was issued reiterating the commands of the Throne that, in conformity with the wishes expressed by the late DOWAGER-EMPRESS, the Provincial Councils should use their best efforts to promote the welfare of the provinces they respectively represent. They were cautioned against exceeding their rights and encroaching upon established law; they were bidden not to act impulsively, but with calm deliberation and a single eye to the promotion of the best interests of the people. The resolutions passed by a Provincial Council are subject to the approval of the Viceroy or Governor, who are directed by the Edict to enforce such resolutions of the Council as may seem to them advisable, but they are enjoined to take care that the resolutions are not *ultra vires*, and contrary to established laws and regulations. It is the earnest desire of the Throne that the Viceroys and Governors should do all in their power to remove whatever grievances the people have, and they are told that in doing this they will be fulfilling a patriotic duty and at the same time be showing their loyalty to the Throne. H. I. H. the PRINCE REGENT has directed that a copy of this Decree shall be hung in every Council Chamber and that the commands it embodies shall be strictly obeyed. The spirit of this Decree is altogether admirable, and the inauguration of the Councils everywhere seems to have been done in a business-like manner and with a decorum which all friends of China will hope to see maintained when the Councils get into the very heart of the business they are formed to transact. It will occasion no surprise if we learn in the course of the next few months of estrangements, if not of violent antagonism, between the officials and the Councils in many of the Provinces, for many of the duties performed by officials must necessarily come under the scrutiny of the Councils. It will be the business of these Councils, we presume, to accept some responsibility for the accuracy of the provincial budgets, and in this connection it is evident the Councils have it in their power to render the State splendid service. There can be no "regeneration of China" until the whole fiscal system is radically changed. It is a prodigious task, as anyone who has read the exhaustive descriptions of it given by Professor PARKER and Mr. H. B. MORSE will readily understand, but it is one which, sooner or later, must be entered upon. We have no doubt the natural curiosity of the provincial assemblies to learn what becomes of all the revenue raised will not only prove a safeguard against administrative and financial corruption, but lead eventually to the abandonment of what Mr. PARKER has called "the many anfractuosities, callosities and complications" in the accounts, so as to remove the chances of the silver raised to meet the expenses of government, "halting piecemeal on the way to its nominal destination." The establishment of these Councils, therefore, marks an important epoch in the history of China, and the work they do will be watched with much attention and eager hopefulness.

It is reported that the Waiwupu has recently presented a memorial to the Throne recommending Senior Secretary, Wen Pu, Senior Secretary Wu Chi, Civil Vice-Governor of Peking, Yuen Chung-shu and Expectant Toantai Liu Yu Lin, as competent for the appointment of Deputy Vice-President or Counselor of that Board. Taotai Liu Yu Lin is well known in Hongkong and South China. He has been in the Consular and Diplomatic Service for the last twenty years and has spent a good deal of the time in official positions abroad.

THE BRITISH POSTAL AGENCIES.

(Daily Press, October 26th.)

H.E. THE GOVERNOR when he addressed the Legislative Council last week was unable to give any definite information in regard to the Postal Agencies in China, some of the Treaty ports having agreed to provide the contribution HIS EXCELLENCY had suggested, while others had not. It has been suggested to us that the most simple and the most satisfactory method of getting over the difficulty, is by raising the rate of postage in the ports where the revenue of the Agency does not cover expenditure. If the postage rate to the United Kingdom and the British Colonies were raised from 4 cents to 5 cents, British residents in those places would not have a great deal to complain about. We have received two communications to that effect from Shanghai. Four cents is not the equivalent of one penny, and the increase would not, therefore, be a departure from the Imperial Penny Postage rate, while the British Post Office would still be the cheapest in the East, for the rate by all other Post Offices in China remains at ten cents. "A Britisher," writing to a Shanghai contemporary, has pointed out that British penny postage was intended for the Empire, and not for British subjects resident in places outside the Empire, and he suggests that the natural remedy for the loss at present incurred by Hongkong for postal connection with the Treaty ports is that it should either be borne by the Home Government on behalf of British subjects in those places, or be met by reverting to the 2½d. or 10 cents per half-ounce postage to be paid by residents in those ports or by those posting to them. It does not seem necessary to go so far as this at least, at present. The Imperial Government has undertaken to bear half the loss; the Hongkong Government is prepared to bear a moiety of the remaining loss, and we should think that if the balance can be covered by increasing the postal rate to the United Kingdom and the Colonies from 4 cents to 5 cents in the Treaty ports of China it would be a most satisfactory solution of the question.

ORIENTAL STUDIES.

(Daily Press, October 27th.)

The Report of the Committee appointed by the British Treasury to consider the Organisation of Oriental Studies in London contains much that is of interest to British residents in the Far East, whether they are in the Consular and Diplomatic Services, the Army or Navy, or engaged in Commerce. Lord REDESDALE, who was Chairman of the Committee, was in the 'Sixties in the Diplomatic Service at Peking and subsequently at Tokyo, visiting the latter capital again, with Prince ARTHUR of CONNAUGHT, in 1906. Among the seventy-three witnesses examined by the Committee were several men who have figured prominently in the Far East, including Sir ERNEST SATOW, Sir HENRY BLAKE, Sir CLEMENTI SMITH, Mr. W. KESWICK, M. P., and Mr. ADDIS. From a speech delivered by Lord REDESDALE in the House of Lords on September 26th we learn that "there was almost unanimity of opinion on the part of the witnesses as to the desirability of giving young men who were being trained for the East preliminary instruction in London, though the opposite view was taken by so eminent an authority as Sir ERNEST SATOW." Certainly few of the witnesses who discussed the subject from the point of view of the young man coming to China or Japan were more competent to express an opinion on this point,

but with all due deference to Sir ERNEST SATOW's experience, we think the view put forward by Lord CROMER when the subject was under discussion in the House of Lords is a very sound one. "If a young man," said his Lordship, "delayed studying till he got to the East, he very often never studied at all, and if he got a smattering of the language he never learned enough to be able to discuss difficult questions. On the other hand, if he once got grounded in England, he readily picked up local knowledge." That seems to us to be specially true of the young man coming out to China, where the task of acquiring the language is so formidable. If he came out, as the first British missionary did, possessing some previous acquaintance with the language and thought of the people among whom his lot is to be cast, he has at least a most valuable incentive to make such a thorough study of the language and customs of the people as can only be acquired by residence amongst them. We are not prepared to endorse the suggestion in Lord REDESDALE's speech that other foreigners in the East are better equipped in this respect than are the British. If "all the evidence placed before the Committee went to show that foreigners were cutting the ground under our feet" we do not think it can be said that, so far as the Far East is concerned, it is because the said foreigners are linguistically any the better equipped than their British competitors; and when Lord REDESDALE says "we have been always pulling chestnuts out of the fire for the foreigner in the Far East," we confess we are unable to see the bearing of the remark on the particular subject under consideration. Oriental studies certainly receive greater encouragement in some of the capitals of Europe than they at present receive in London. While in Berlin grants are made amounting to something like £10,000; in Paris and St. Petersburg, £7,000; and in Italy £4,000; in England the University of London receives an annual grant of £300 from the India Office, and King's College receives an annual grant of £100 from the Colonial Office for the teaching of Hausa. It has been the policy of the British Government to rely almost entirely on training abroad, but the Committee in their Report state that they regard as wasteful the present system adopted by the Foreign Office of sending out to the Far East men who may or may not possess the necessary aptitude for acquiring Chinese and Japanese, which, they say, could easily be tested by a year's probationary training in England. Yet we believe we are correct in saying that the system which the Committee deems "wasteful" is the system followed by nearly every missionary organisation working in the Far East. The Committee regard as successful the system of training, at Cambridge, the student-interpreters for the Levant, and of training, at Oxford and Cambridge, officials for certain branches of the Egyptian and Soudanese Civil Services. Hence the Committee reach the conclusion that as the best results are attained under this system of training at Home for service in Egypt and the Soudan, so must it be for service in the Asiatic countries. When we come to the section of the Report which deals with commercial students we find Mr. KESWICK saying that "if we are to make progress in those [Eastern] countries - - and to keep the advantage that at present we possess over our competitors of other nations, we must not neglect a knowledge of the language. I regard it as of the very first importance." With that observation few will disagree, yet if we look around the Colony of Hongkong, how many firms do we find insisting on the Euro-

pean members of their staff acquiring a knowledge of the Chinese language and affording the necessary facilities for the study? So far as we know, there is only one firm in Hongkong—and that a Japanese firm—which has taken serious steps in that direction, and has been able to dispense with the Chinese compradore and all other Chinese assistants, save an office boy. We understand that Japanese youths are brought by the firm to China, and after spending a few years in Hongkong or Shanghai learning the language they are sent into the interior of China in order to improve their knowledge not only of the language, but of Chinese methods of business. This is the ideal system, and we understand it is likely to be adopted by other Japanese firms. For obvious reasons no European commercial house can work on exactly similar lines, but the foundation of the School of Chinese in the University of London, now accommodated in King's College, is (as the Committee in their report remarks) a proof of the interest of the great China houses in the better equipment of their staffs so far as a knowledge of the Chinese language is concerned, and, to paraphrase a remark made by Lord CROMER, it will readily be admitted that a wonderful advantage is gained by the man who, if he cannot get rid of the interpreter, knows sufficient of the language to be able to check interpretations.

THE LATE PRINCE ITO.

(Daily Press, October 27th.)

Words are inadequate to express the horror and the sadness evoked by the news of the dastardly outrage which has robbed the Japanese nation of its foremost Statesman. Prince Ito's history since the year 1867 is the history of his country, for he has been prominently identified with every phase of progress in the creation of Modern Japan. He will figure in history as the maker of the Constitution, and as the wise and far-seeing Statesman who has for at least a full quarter of a century stood behind the Throne, inspiring and guiding the great movements which have elevated Japan to the front rank among the Powers of the world. Four or five times the Prince has filled the office of Prime Minister, but whether in or out of office he was always the adviser on whom, more than any other, the EMPEROR relied. When Korea became a Japanese protectorate it was Ito who went to Seoul as the first Resident General to draw up and inaugurate a revolutionary scheme of government, bringing order out of chaos in the administration, and so promoting the welfare and progress of the country. There is no question that Prince Ito accomplished during the two or three years he held the office of Resident General a great work in Korea in laying solid foundations for good and honest government, and there is abundant evidence of appreciation on the part of the more enlightened Koreans as well as by his own countrymen and foreign independent observers. Still the very nature of the task made some disaffection inevitable, and it is at the hands of a Korean political fanatic that the venerable statesman of nearly three score years and ten has fallen while in Manchuria on a visit which he himself only a fortnight ago, on the eve of his departure, declared to have no political significance. His death will be deeply deplored in all the chancelleries of the world, as his commanding influence in the politics of Asia was a factor of the greatest importance, and the consequences of its removal are difficult to estimate.

RAILWAY EARNINGS IN SOUTH CHINA.

(Daily Press, October 28th.)

In view of the statement made by H. E. the GOVERNOR in his Budget speech that the receipts from a half-year's working of the Kowloon-Canton railway (British section) had been estimated at \$20,000, it is interesting to learn what are the actual traffic receipts of other lines in the Canton district, and in order to draw comparisons we avail ourselves of the statistical information furnished by the Commissioner of the Chinese Imperial Customs at Canton in his Report for 1908, which has just reached us. The British section of the Kowloon-Canton railway will be twenty-two miles in length, while the Canton-Samshui line is thirty miles. This line in 1908 carried 3,052,920 passengers and the gross earnings from all sources amounted to \$582,005, of which sum passengers contributed \$568,745, or a decrease of \$10,993 as compared with the 1907 figures, due, the Commissioner says, to floods and typhoon, failure of rice crop, shortage in the first silk crop, the national mourning and the generally depressed state of local business. Twenty thousand dollars as a half-year's receipts from the Kowloon line seems a very low estimate, but it has, of course, to be borne in mind that the territory through which this section passes is sparsely populated and that until it is connected up with the Canton section its chances of obtaining remunerative traffic are exceedingly small. It is probable that, contrary to the experience of the Fatshan-Samshui line, it will draw as large a proportion of its receipts from freight as from passengers, but its earnings from either source are unlikely to be large until the connection is made. A careful estimate, the Commissioner says, on the authority of the Engineer-in-Chief, anticipates the opening to traffic of a 30-mile section (that is to say, a third) of the Chinese section, from Canton outwards in March, 1910, and a through connection with Kowloon in or about July, 1911. The Commissioner mentions that the route adopted offers every prospect of considerable traffic. It is pointed out that from Canton to Sheklung there are many large villages, and that the railway will provide ready access to the Hongkong and Canton markets for the lichees, sugar cane, oranges and other products of these richly cultivated and prosperous districts. Sheklung itself, he says, from its commanding position on the East River, is destined to be the principal distributing centre for the district. To the south of Sheklung onwards to Samchun, a direct route has been obtained through a fine country with much arable land and prospects of rapid development. Pineapples and vegetables are produced in large quantities in the district. We can only hope that this is all to the good of the railway, but experience in China has shown that the development of the freight-carrying capacity of railways is extremely slow. It is the experience of the section of the trunk line of the Canton-Hankow line already opened, as well as of the branch line from Canton to Samshui. But there is some reason for hoping that the Canton-Kowloon railway will prove an exception to what appears to be a general rule in China, for the line for three-quarters of its length follows a route well away from the coast line and, therefore, for the transport of the local produce intended for the Hongkong and Canton markets the railway ought to appeal strongly to the farmers. If pending the opening of through traffic the British section of the line has to depend

on passenger traffic alone for its receipts, then \$20,000 for a period of six months will not strike the reader as an under-estimate when he learns that on the forty-five English miles of the grand trunk line of the Yueh-Han Railway the earnings for twelve months did not amount to more than \$167,202, though over a million passengers were carried.

HISTORICAL COMPARISON.

(Daily Press, October 29th.)

A Gentleman who recently returned to England after an uninterrupted residence of some fifteen or sixteen years in the Far East, and who had during that period but little communication with Home, and in China had taken little part in public affairs, on his arrival put up for a short period in a hotel on the Strand. He thus describes his first experience:—"So far, I cannot say I am impressed with my visit to the old country. People are lazy, youngsters cheeky, and one sees crowds waiting for some hours outside theatre and music-hall doors on the pavement to get a good seat—boys, girls, and grown-up folk: where they get the money, God only knows! The Government does not seem to be improving matters by its socialistic legislation. I fear the country will experience a serious shock ere long." The description is not unlike what might have been said of Rome in the latter days of the Empire, when the most serious business of the day was *panem et circenses*. Like the once proud Romans of the Republic, the proletariat of England has come down to be a mere body of pensioners, whom it has become the aim of the Government of the day to feed and amuse, for the mere sake of gaining their votes at the polls; and the main business of Parliament is to provide ways and means to save the proletariat the responsibility of providing for its own offspring. Naturally to the pensionaries who in these latter days fill the ranks of the administration, there is ever present the temptation of an army and navy formed by a wiser generation for the defence of the country, but which costs considerable sums of money to maintain in efficiency; and as one of the first measures of the Roman proletariat when the reins of government fell into its hands was to starve the legions; so in England one of the first acts of a Government put into office by a proletarian vote, and largely composed of men dependent on their salaries, is, under the pretence of promoting peace, to attempt to reduce to inefficiency both army and navy. It requires but little talent to drop one's insurance. A fool can see that he thereby increases his momentary income. "What has insurance ever done for me," and "why should I support a useless army of directors and secretaries?" "For nearly a hundred years we have had no benefit from army or navy that we can see; why should we stint ourselves to support an army of aristocrats?" says the proletariat. "There is so and so living in a palace with lots of coin at his command, whilst we toil and moil, for bare sustenance; why should he be possessed of all the luxuries, while we have nothing but the labour of our hands to support us? Let us plunder him—plunder in such a case is surely no crime."

Such an argument on first sight, no doubt, looks specious enough, but there is another side to the question. It is not the way that nature sets to work; perhaps it is only a case of perversity, but nature certainly seems to avoid uniformity, and has implanted in the human breast much of her own distaste. A fertile plain has its uses; but

what should we think of an artist who in his drawing of a landscape sought to maintain throughout a rigid monotony? In the economy of nature the rugged hill plays as important a part as the teeming vale. We can imagine a level marsh through which, here and there, a languid well comes to the surface, but were there no rising ground to induce a circulation of the water. We know the result; so far from being a fertile and smiling plain, the marsh would quickly become a fetid morass, unfit for the habitation of man; and the few human beings who penetrated its recesses would be nothing more than a batch of fever-stricken wretches unable to help themselves, much less to increase the prosperity of their neighbours. It is not the actual amount of gold distributed through its population that makes a country wealthy, as it is not the actual amount of rain that makes it fertile; in both cases there must be some apparatus for setting the capital in motion. This in the one case is provided by the, itself unfruitful, mountain range; in the other by the aggregation of capital in heaps, whence the action of gravity forces it to descend and distribute itself over the lower grounds. The man of wealth can consume no more actual food than his poorer neighbour, for what further luxuries he may enjoy he is entirely dependent on his fellow-men, and to obtain their assistance he must set his capital in circulation; each member of the community through whose hands it passes becomes, as it were, a partner of the original possessor. Suppose the original capital were to be divided equally between all there could be no circulation, and the very utmost each could contrive to obtain from it would be the barest of sustenance—no clothing, even butter for his bread—for these would require the services of others. This is, of course, the extreme, but we can imagine any number of intermediate steps, comfort increasing with the increase of circulation.

In the case of a well-watered and fertile region, supplied from an elevated range of hills, we can imagine the result were a huge roller to be passed over the hills, and the whole reduced to a monotonous flat. Physically the land would be ruined, and reduced to a profitless Sahara. This is what the socialistic reformer would do with the finances of the land; he would, if he could, entirely withdraw the power of circulation. The actual gold might remain, but it might as well be returned to its original rock, as there would be possibility of making use of it. Bank notes would long ere this have gone out of circulation, in fact paper and printing would be alike impossible and the multitudes who live by their industries would have to perish, or migrate elsewhere. Of course it is quite true that the proposed Budget does not propose to go to this extreme: at the most it proposes to withdraw one-fifth of the circulating capital. The principle is the same identically; we can suppose the head of water in our mountain range reduced from, say, five thousand feet to four thousand—Will the plain be equally well-watered, and will it be able to support an equal population? These are things as capable of proof as any simple mathematical problem; it might be supposed that with the growth of (so-called) education they would quickly disappear. It is unfortunately the fact that our modern education, of the school board type, at least, just excludes the one useful point of a real education—the drawing out of the faculties. To learn that *p e n* spells *pen*, that Great Britain is an island, and contains rivers—some large and some small, and also has towns, some of which are large, and some of them small—may be an exercise of the memory, but is

in no sense education. What education means is the drawing out of the faculties to enable the young mind to reason for himself, and this is exactly the element wanting. Were the rising generation instructed in the principles of reasoning it would be able to see the fallacies of the talk presented to it by such nearly as ignorant propounders of riddles as Mr. LLOYD GEORGE himself; it would also—and this is of nearly as much importance—be able to understand the inner current of self-interest which in all ages has prompted the would-be demagogue to utilise in his own favour the passions of the uninstructed commonalty. Rome perished through the debauchery of the constituencies by selfish administrators for their own ends; England is in a fair way of being snuffed out through the similar debauchery of her constituencies by financial ignoramuses, as the leaders of the present Government have proved themselves.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

How fortunate we have been this year with regard to typhoons. Of the many that threatened not one struck us until Tuesday, and even then it wasn't a typhoon. So the quidnuncs say. The wind only travelled at the rate of 75 miles an hour, and to qualify for a typhoon it must put on another five miles an hour. That is a decent blow, and should satisfy anybody who is not satiated with typhoons. The greatest velocity attained by the wind in such cyclonic disturbances is the 200 odd miles of the Galveston cyclone many years ago.

Another thing which proves that the "typhoon was not a typhoon" is that the scaffolding on the new Post Office withstood the force of the wind. That is usually the first to go, though against that it has to be admitted that the usual performance was repeated at the Star Ferry wharf and the military matsheds at Kowloon.

While our thoroughfares were impassable in many places by raging torrents on Tuesday we suffered from a regular Niagara of oratory at the Legislative Council Chamber on Thursday. Two surfeits in one week! No wonder it takes us some time recover.

The griffin who wanted to see his first typhoon was in evidence on Tuesday and it has to be admitted that though the blow did not come up to the expectation of the old hands it quite impressed the youth with a more susceptible mind. In one instance the griffin, whose residence was at Kowloon, was quite perturbed because he had not a clean collar for the morrow. He must have been a Kowloonatic.

It is not often, however, that so many folks are stranded on the Hongkong side. At least a hundred people were unable to cross to their residences in Kowloon and the hotels and restaurants were busier in consequence. They were a sleepy-looking lot that crossed with the first ferry on Wednesday morning.

There were no heroics on Tuesday, although I am told there were several Emergency Volunteers at their allotted posts.

There may be something wrong with my thinking apparatus but I failed to see the logic of the argument of the Hon. Mr. Murray Stewart when he suggested that the sum to which a member of a military or a naval canteen would be entitled to as rebate of duty should be given to him in a lump sum, as the tendency then would be for him to save it. The argument is that the larger the sum the greater the tendency to thrift. If that were so, those who drink most should have the largest sums in the Savings Bank. It reminds me of the story of the old woman who had become a member of a co-operative society, and who was so obsessed with the prospect of the dividend, that at meal time she addressed her family in these words: "Eat, you beggars, eat. The more you eat the bigger the dividend."

I see the Sanitary Department headquarters have been removed sooner than expected. I hope the office cat will not be forgotten. By the bye, when is that exhibition of cuts to be held? Nobody seems to know anything about it now.

The journey of the elephant from the circus to the racecourse last Saturday was broken by the genial Colonel, who needed liquor refreshment after his arduous walk, inviting the juvenile mammoth to accompany him into a hotel. There was no occasion to repeat the invitation, for the intelligent animal followed him up to the bar, to the astonishment of those present, who rubbed their eyes and wondered if they had "got 'em again." Mick, as he is called, partook of the beer which was lavished upon him and the sight was so grotesque that even a Scotsman was heard to "shout" a drink for the elephant.

Hostesses who are about to give dances might accept the suggestion to indicate on their invitations that the wearing of white coats by gentlemen is optional. It is always rather warm dancing and the coolest attire would be welcomed by the gentlemen, whose regulation garb is not conducive to comfort on those joyous occasions.

Now that the dancing season is upon us, the following yarn may be appreciated by Thespians. A sailor was once asked by a messmate not quite so well up in matters social as himself to explain to him the third figure in a quadrille. "You first of all heave ahead," said he, "and pass your adversary's yard-arms; then in a jiffy regain your berth on the other tack in the same kind of order, slip along sharp, and take your station with your partners in line; back and fill, and then fall on your heel and bring up with your craft. She then manoeuvres ahead off alongside you; then make sail in company with her until nearly astern of the other line; make a stern board; cast her off to shift for herself; regain your place out of the squadron as best you can, and let go your anchor."

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

His Excellency the Governor has gone into residence at Government House for the winter.

The troopship *Soudan* reached here on Saturday with drafts for the China Station.

The Club Germania celebrates the 50th anniversary of its institution by an "at home" on Saturday, 27th November.

A committee has now been formed to raise subscriptions among local Chinese for the erection of a public hall for the use of the Chinese.

A Chinaman informs the police that he dropped out of his pocket a bank draft for \$2,500 and notes to the value of \$160.

The steam launch *Hoi Ling* ran down a cargo boat near Bank wharf early on the 27th inst. The crew of the native craft were rescued.

The only cases of communicable disease in the Colony reported last week was one Chinese case of enteric fever, and three fatal cases of puerperal fever, all Chinese.

Mr. C. W. Fairbanks, ex Vice-President of the United States, and Mrs. Fairbanks were passengers from Manila to Hongkong by the steamer *Minnesota*.

His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 21 of 1909, entitled—An Ordinance to regulate the construction and management of railways.

His Excellency the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, to the following Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council:—Ordinance No. 30 of 1909.—An Ordinance to amend the Liquors Ordinance, 1909.

Snatching from the person was severely punished in two instances at the end of the week. One man who snatched a gold bangle from a child's wrist was sentenced by Mr. Hazeland to four months' imprisonment with hard labour, six hours in the stocks and to receive two whippings of twelve strokes each. Mr. Wood dealt with another by giving him six months' hard labour and six hours in the stocks.

A Chinese tailor, for leaving the employment of his master (a Chinese) without notice, was fined \$10 or fourteen days' imprisonment by Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Oct. 26th.

Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse, Deputy Superintendent of Police, prosecuted two chair bearers before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Tuesday for causing an obstruction by rushing towards passengers. Each man was fined \$2.

The wedding took place at the Union Church on Tuesday of Mr. Frank Malcolm Crawford to Miss Nellie Eadie Stevenson. The Rev. C. H. Hickling conducted the service. Mr. Crapnell acted as best man and Miss Madge Bird acted as bridesmaid.

The Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, K.C., on Oct. 27 took the oath of office as acting Chief Justice before H.E. the Governor. Mr. F. A. Hazeland will act as Attorney General and Mr. Halifax will take the place vacated by Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy.

On Saturday last His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by the Hon. Mr. May and Mr. Eves, inspected the British section of the Kowloon-Canton Railway as far as Taipo. The next day His Excellency and party inspected the railway works from Taipo up to the Chinese frontier.

Thirty Chinese, twenty-nine men and a woman, were charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Oct. 27 with gambling at 372, Queen's Road Central. The men were fined \$3 each, but the woman, who said she went to look for her husband who had pawned her jacket, was discharged.

Inspector Robertson charged nine men before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Oct. 26th with armed robbery at West Point, and with cutting and wounding with intent to murder. A woman was also charged with receiving stolen goods. Five of the men pleaded guilty, and the hearing of the case was adjourned.

His many friends in the Colony will regret to learn that Police Inspector J. Smith has been removed to hospital in a critical condition. On Saturday morning, while on duty in the charge room at the Central Station, he fell back in his chair and called to Inspector Fenton to save him from falling. Then he collapsed and was removed to hospital in an ambulance. Mr. Smith, who is anaemic, is believed to have been seized with a paralytic stroke, and there was no improvement in his condition yesterday.

His Excellency the Governor, under sections 5 and 6 of the Coroner's Ordinance, has ordered that the two existing mortuaries at West Point and Yaumati be set apart for the reception of dead bodies for the purpose of post mortem examinations, and he has appointed Drs. E. A. Shaw, R.N., and J. C. Thomson to be medical officers for Victoria, and Drs. W. W. Pearce and J. W. Hartley to be medical officers at Kowloon for the purposes of section 6 of that Ordinance.

The re-opening of the organ at St. John's Cathedral, after extensive repairs, took place on Tuesday when service was conducted by the Rev. A. M. Thornhill. The lesson was read by the Rev. F. T. Johnson and the choir sang Spohr's "Praise His awful name," the solos being taken by Mrs. Barrett and Mr. White. At the conclusion of shortened evensong Mr. Denman Fuller, the organist, played five selections. "The Dead March" was played in token of the loss sustained by the church and choir by the death of Mrs. Clelland.

A very successful entertainment was given in the R.E. Theatre last night when the Garrison Schools Concert was held. The display was very creditable to the young people and to their painstaking instructor Mr. L. Hayne. The programme included a glee, part songs and musical drill by the elder children, action songs by the infants, solos by Master R. Finlan, Master H. Williams club singing by Master W. Phillips, a pianoforte duet by Misses N. Lock and H. Hooper, a duet by Misses V. Smith and E. Phillips, and a comic sketch entitled "Assurance and Insurance," in which the parts were taken by Masters W. Redman, R. Finlan, W. Goulding, C. Smith, and Miss H. Hooper. The Buffs String Band played delightful selections during the evening.

Mr. E. R. Hallifax, who has just been appointed to act as First Magistrate, arrived by the P. and O. mail steamer on Thursday accompanied by Mrs. Hallifax and infant.

Before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Oct. 25 a coolie who was found guilty of stealing \$4 worth of copper, brass and zinc from the Naval Yard was sentenced to four months' imprisonment with hard labour and six hours' stocks.

Eleven Chinese appeared before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Magistracy on Monday charged with gambling at No. 3, Jardine's Bazaar, on Saturday night. The two keepers of the game were fined \$75 each, and each of the players \$3. Another batch of thirteen who appeared before the same Magistrate for a similar offence were fined \$3 each.

On Monday a Chinese painter, while painting the iron bars of a window at No. 1, St. John's Place, fell to the ground, a distance of 20 feet. The fall was occasioned through the loosening of a bar by which the workman was supporting himself. He was picked up and removed to his home, and after lingering for two days died of cerebral concussion.

An interesting story of how robbers were frightened off by having a rifle fired in their direction comes from Taikoo reservoir, where the watchman, on being awakened by a noise outside his quarters, saw two men with torches and bamboos and another kicking at the door. They threatened to kill him if he did not open the door, but taking down a rifle he fired through the window. This alarmed the unwelcome visitors who quickly made off.

Maj.-Gen. Villiers Hatton, C.B., who was last employed in command of the troops in South China, completes three years' unemployment on November 3rd, and will be retired on pension. This officer, says a Service journal, who was promoted to the generals' list in 1903, passed his regimental career in the Grenadier Guards, which he joined nearly 37 years ago, and under the age rules could remain on the active list another five years. He did excellent work in the Khartoum campaign, 1898.

At the Magistracy on Thursday before Mr. J. R. Wood two natives were charged by Inspector Dymond of Aberdeen with being in unlawful possession of 55lbs. of gelatine. It appears that quantities of this explosive have been sold to fishermen in various parts of the Colony, and that in consequence the police have been keeping a sharp look-out for the vendors. The 55lbs. seized in this instance were discovered in two baskets, the gelatine being covered with rice. A woman was engaged to carry the explosive into Aberdeen, where, apparently it was to be offered for sale. The defendants were remanded.

Drs. W. W. Pearse and J. W. Hartley have been appointed medical officers at Kowloon for the purpose of instituting inquiries with a view to ascertaining the true cause of death of any person who has not been attended during his last illness by a registered medical practitioner, and of reporting thereon to the Head of the Sanitary Department or a registrar of deaths.

The police made two arrests in connection with a Triad Society disturbance at East Point on Friday. One of the men had a hammer in his possession and also wore a red sash on which were Chinese characters stating that while he wore that he could not be hurt. However, the Magistrate had no hesitation in fining him and his companion.

A very noticeable feature in connection with the late typhoon is the small loss of life and craft in the estuary of the Canton River compared with that of recent years, is no doubt largely due to the Kowloon Customs having set up a signal station at Chekwan to which all the storm signals exhibited on the Tamar are wired, and where they are displayed for the information of the native craft. It must be very gratifying to the gentlemen concerned to find that their efforts have been attended with such good results, and the Tidesurveyor is to be complimented on his foresight in suggesting the scheme, as well as Mr. Commissioner Harris on his hearty co-operation in bringing it to the notice of the Canton Viceroy himself for adopting the suggestion and providing the necessary funds.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Tuesday at the Board Room. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe presided, and there were present: Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General) Colonel Bedford, R.A.M.C., Dr. Fitzwilliams, Mr. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. W. Bowen Rowlands (Secretary).

IS MR. HO KOM TONG A MEMBER?

Mr. HOOPER—Mr. President, before we go on with the general business of the meeting I should like to ask whether Mr. Ho Kom Tong is a member of the Board still, and if not, whether any communication has been sent notifying his resignation, and whether any steps have been taken to fill the vacancy. I ask because there are rumours in the newspapers that he is no longer a member.

The PRESIDENT—I understand from what I have seen in the papers that he has resigned, but I have received no official information that his resignation has been accepted, or a substitute appointed. I think it is almost time a reminder was sent in that we should like to know what is happening.

Mr. HOOPER—We would like to know if he is still a member.

The PRESIDENT—Notices have been sent to him as usual, as I have received no official intimation that he has resigned. He informed me that he had, and did not wish the papers sent to him. However, I will ascertain, and ask that the Board be informed as soon as possible.

Mr. HOOPER—Thank you.

APPLICATION TO RE-OPEN A WELL.

Messrs. Denison, Ram and Gibbs, on behalf of the committee of the Tung Wah Hospital, applied for permission to re-open a well in the premises of the hospital. The water was not required for domestic purposes, but for flushing the lavatory.

The SECRETARY minuted that on February 14th, 1903, the hospital were informed by the Board that they must close this well within twenty-four hours. The well was filled in and sealed down on the 23rd of the same month. On March 20th the hospital requested permission to use the well for washing purposes only, but the application was refused.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—As I understand we have now an ample water supply, I consider that no old wells should be re-opened.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I think permission for this might be refused in view of the probability of a constant supply to the town being reverted to in a few days' time, unless it is for the supply of water closets.

The application was granted.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES BYE-LAWS.

The PRESIDENT intimated that the byelaws had not been forwarded to the Crown Solicitor before they had been considered by the Board. Since they had been referred to the Crown Solicitor several small changes had been made in the wording and he was afraid it would be necessary to go through them clause by clause.

Mr. HOOPER took it that the purport had not been altered.

The PRESIDENT—No.

The byelaws were then read and agreed to.

MOSQUITO BREEDING.

Correspondence was submitted as to the prevention of mosquito breeding.

The PRESIDENT—Since my minute was written I have made inquiry from the Law Officers and learn that we would not be justified in dealing with pools under that section. I think we had better be on the safe side, and if we wish to deal with mosquito pools we should pass the byelaw in its present form.

Colonel BEDFORD—Does the new byelaw give us as much power as the old one?

The PRESIDENT—No, it is limited. Under the old byelaw we could compel a man to pull down his house to dig out the larvae. These powers were too wide.

The byelaw was then passed.

THE CENTRAL MARKET.

Correspondence was again submitted relative to the hours for opening and closing the Central Market.

The PRESIDENT stated that in view of a petition received just before the regulations as to the time they were to come into force, it was proposed to adhere to the old time which

served the stallholders better. He moved that the opening and closing hours be as before.

Dr. FITZWILLIAMS—How is that going to affect the new contract for lighting the market?

The PRESIDENT—It won't affect it at all. We are now going back to the old system on which the contract was based.

The motion was agreed to.

THE VOLUNTEER CONCERT.

The chill air was not conducive to the enjoyment of an open-air entertainment, and the concert arranged for Saturday night in the interests of the Diocesan Girls' Home, instead of taking place on the Parade Ground was held in the Volunteer Drill Hall. There was a good attendance and the programme came up to expectations. The Buffs' Band added to their excellent reputation by the charming overture and selections which they rendered and applause, as sincere as it was enthusiastic, greeted their performances. The individual performers were also very successful. Mr. R. E. White's fine baritone voice was heard to advantage in the "Song of the Toreador," and there could be little doubt of the appreciation of the auditors. "I hear thee calling me" was contributed by Mr. Donne, whose voice seemed a trifle thin. Mrs. Barrett was encored for her exquisite interpretation of "I give you roses," and she had to respond to an encore. Agreeable variety was supplied by a minstrel party composed of Captain Beasley, Commander Penfold, Messrs. Grimble, Worcester, Carroll and Donne, who gave an amusing sketch entitled "Ten minutes at Margate." Miss Parke again proved a favourite, her singing of Tosti's "Goodbye" evoking a recall, when she complied with "Velia," which was also well rendered. "Onaway Awake" was the selection of Mr. Ayris, who was cordially greeted. A trio, in which Miss Parke and Messrs. White and Ayris participated, was effectively rendered and was rewarded with the applause of the audience.

The accompanists were Messrs. J. W. White and G. Grimble.

ARMED ROBBERY IN HONGKONG.

A CHINESE STABBED.

It seems impossible that an armed robbery should be committed in Hongkong in the early hours of evening and just within hail of a police station, yet such an occurrence took place at a shop near the Sailors' Home on Friday. About 7-45 on Friday evening a man wearing a long silk coat entered the matting shop at 292, Des Voeux Road and asked the two foks on the ground floor if their master was surnamed Li. Before they could answer nine others rushed into the place and seizing the two foks gagged them and bound their hands with wire. Then going upstairs they did the same to the master and his brother and four foks, whom they took by surprise. One of the robbers was armed with a revolver and four or five carried knives. They took the key of the safe from the master's girdle and opened the safe, from which they took \$1,000 in money. They also collected some silk and clothing, the total value of their booty being \$1,290. As the robbers were about to take their departure a visitor entered and he declined to be gagged. He knew something of the fistic art and put up a fight, but he was knocked hors de combat by the use of knives, being stabbed several times. The thieves have not been arrested.

HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

We are authoritatively informed that Messrs. David Sassoon & Company and Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Company have each subscribed a sum of \$10,000 to the University Endowment Fund.

ADMIRAL LAMBTON'S SUCCESSOR.

The period of the command of the British China squadron expires next spring, when Admiral Hon. Sir Hedworth Lambton will relinquish the post. It is believed he will be succeeded by Vice-Admiral Alfred L. Winsloe C.V.O., C.M.G., the present fourth Sea Lord at the Admiralty.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on Thursday in the Council Chamber.

The following were present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEATRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. F. A. HAZELAND (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. C. M. I. MESSER (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. P. N. H. JONES (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. F. J. BADELEY (Capt. Superintendent of Police).

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, M.B., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. E. A. HEWETT.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK, C.M.G.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland took the oath and assumed his seat as a member of the Council.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 47 to 50), and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

HIS EXCELLENCY—With regard to the last of these minutes, no 50, it might interest the Council to know what has been done in this matter. On Friday, the 22nd, the *Calchas* brought in news, which was signalled also from Gap Rock, to the effect that there were a large number of dismantled junks floating about to the south and south-west of Gap Rock. I immediately sent out the tug *David Gillies*, which was hired from the Dock Company. She left at 2 a.m. so as to arrive on the scene about daylight and bring in whatever junks she could find. She brought in 52 men from various junks and towed in one junk. At the same time I applied to the Commodore and asked him to give what assistance he could with the vessels of the Royal Navy. He sent out two destroyers and they brought in one junk and also distributed rice and water to different crews; we sent out 200 pounds to be distributed. The next day, Sunday, the two destroyers again went out and brought in three more junks. On that occasion they again took out rice and water. On Monday further reports reached us from Gap Rock that there was a number of derelict junks floating about. I appealed to the Commodore and he again sent out the two destroyers and the *Cadmus*. They have not yet returned. They took out 200 pounds of rice each, and the *Stanley*, which was making her fortnightly trip to Gap Rock, also took another 300 pounds of rice. The hiring of the *David Gillies* cost us \$500 and the 2,700 pounds of rice cost \$113, and the financial minute before the Council is for that amount. I may say that the *Telemachus* brought in 11 men, the *Mathilde* brought in six junks—a most creditable performance. (Applause.) The *Helene* brought in 16 men, and I have just heard that the *Quinta* sighted another junk and took her into safety. The total saved, therefore, is 82 men and 11 junks.

THE RETIREMENT OF MR. CARTER.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT asked the following questions standing in his name:—

As it is understood that Mr. A. Carter, Sanitary Surveyor, has been retired from the Government service, will the Honourable Colonial Secretary inform the Council when this official first received notice as to his being pensioned?

Is it not a fact that Mr. Carter was at home on leave for nearly a twelvemonth in the full belief that he was to return to this Colony, and that within five weeks of the date of the expiring of his leave (as shown in the Civil

Service List) and when he was on the point of leaving England to take up his appointment here, he was for the first time informed by the Colonial Office that his services were no longer required?

Will the Government, taking into consideration the fact of Mr. Carter's good service, and that owing to his age he is now no longer eligible for obtaining fresh employment in a Government or municipal office, recommend to the Secretary of State that under the exceptional circumstances of the case Mr. Carter be granted a special pension of, say, £130 p.a.; or as an alternative an offer of re-employment here on similar conditions to those of his former post?

In the event of the Government being unable to agree to this, will his Excellency consent to refer the question as now raised to the Secretary of State?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:

1. Mr. Carter first received notice of the intention to place him on pension in a letter from the Colonial Office dated the 24th of July.

2. It is a fact that Mr. Carter went home on a year's leave on 1st September, 1908. He applied for three months' extension of that leave prior to the intimation above referred to conveyed to him on 24th July; and he had been granted an extension to his leave of two months.

3. Mr. H. W. Just, of the Colonial Office, in a letter to Mr. Carter dated the 14th of last September wrote:—"With regard to your request for a special pension, I am to observe that you have been granted the addition allowed under the regulations for abolition of office and that it is not possible to consider the grant of a special pension."

4. The point has already been placed before the Secretary of State.

The Government has already considered the possibility of employing Mr. Carter in some capacity and should a suitable vacancy arise his claims to re-employment will not be overlooked.

AN EYESORE.

The Hon. M. STEWART asked the following question standing in his name:

"To whom, for what public purpose, and for how long has the plot of Government ground between the new Law Courts and the Praya been let?"

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied:—This ground with the exception of the strip immediately in front of the Hongkong Club temporarily occupied by Mr. Chan A Tong for work in connection with his contract for the New Law Courts, has been let since 1st December, 1906, to Messrs. Sang Lee & Co. for their work in connection with the contract for Post Office. The ground has to be cleared on three months' notice in writing from the Director of Public Works.

The Hon. Mr. STEWART—Will the Government undertake to have the plot in question cleared and made presentable as soon as it is no longer necessary to the work in the Law Courts and the Post Office to maintain it in its present untidy state?

HIS EXCELLENCY—It would be advisable for you to give notice of that question. The present intention of the Government is to clear the plot as soon as it can be done, but I should like to have notice of the question if you desire a definite answer.

THE SUBSIDIARY COINAGE QUESTION.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I beg leave to give notice that at the next meeting I shall move the following resolution:—That in the opinion of this Council the issue of a new subsidiary coinage convertible at par would not be successful unless the use of all other subsidiary coins were prohibited within the Colony, and that, in the circumstances, it is undesirable to deal with the matter except as part of a comprehensive scheme of local currency reform.

THE FINANCE BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to lay on the table the report of the Committee on the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Five million six hundred and twenty-five thousand six hundred and eighty-three Dollars to the Public Service of the year 1910. I beg to certify that the said Bill has been considered clause by clause in the presence of all members of the Finance Committee. Therefore, sir, unless any member objects it is unnecessary to go into Committee on this Bill and move that it be read a third time.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the Bill was read a third time.

CEMETERY ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Council go into Committee on the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to set apart certain Crown Land to be used as 'a burial ground for persons professing the Christian Religion, other than members of the Roman Catholic Church.'"

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to. Council then went into Committee.

HIS EXCELLENCY—This Bill was held over to study the contemplated plan especially with reference to means of access to the ground beyond. Access has now been secured to the Roman Catholic cemeteries which are not included in this Bill by means of the right of way shown on this plan. It has been signed and will be deposited in the Land Office. I may refer to one question which has been mentioned to me privately, that is, with regard to Roman Catholics who are Freemasons. It was believed that they would not be allowed to be buried in a Roman Catholic cemetery. I consulted the Bishop, who informed me that there is no difficulty in the matter. They can be buried in the consecrated area or the dedicated area, as the case may be.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I would draw attention to the fact that the memorandum is still inconsistent with the provisions of the Bill. Clause 2 clearly admits any member of the Armenian Church or the Greek Church or any other Christians not Roman Catholics, whereas the intention of the Bill is to limit it to Protestants. I have no objection to the Cemetery being open to every Christian, but the object of the Bill will not be met by the Bill. Persons professing the Christian religion and not being members of the Roman Catholic Church are allowed to be buried in this place under clause 2. Is it the intention that it should be open to those who are not Protestants in our acceptance of the term?

HIS EXCELLENCY—The intention of the Bill is to open it to all Christians.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—As long as that is understood, I am content. In the memorandum it says the Colonial Cemetery portion is to be reserved for the burial of members of the Protestant community. If you have a member of the Greek Church applying for burial there you would be up against a difficulty.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—The memorandum does not control. It would be the Bill itself.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The Attorney-General has some amendments to move which will make the matter clear.

The Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—Are there any graves in the section marked non-Christian?

Hon. DIRECTOR of Public Work—I think there are a few.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—If there are it would be rather rough on the relatives of these people to be buried in a non-Christian grave.

HIS EXCELLENCY—They won't be any worse off than they were before. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—I said the relatives, not the bodies.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I move the deletion of the words "Other than members of the Roman Catholic Church."

Hon. Mr. STEWART—Then the effect of that will be that it will no longer be a Protestant cemetery?

HIS EXCELLENCY—Yes.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—Then in the memorandum the object of the Bill is wrongly stated?

HIS EXCELLENCY—Yes.

Clause 2 was amended so as to give a right of way.

The Bill passed through Committee and the Council resumed.

INSPECTION OF STEAM BOILERS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Sir, I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the periodical inspection of Steam Boilers and Prime Movers." This Bill is taken practically from the Ordinance in force in the Straits Settlements, and the objects and reasons appear at the end. It is considered that this legislation is required here.

The object of the Bill is to provide for the inspection of Steam Boilers and Prime Movers with the view to safeguard persons

employed in and about buildings where such machinery is used.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Council then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole Council to consider the Bill clause by clause.

On Clause 6,

Hon. Mr. GRESSON asked if due notice of an inspection would be given to manufacturers, as otherwise it might stop a few days' work.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The engineers will inspect in the same way as steam launches and steamers are inspected.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—Some launches and steamers remain out of work for about 36 hours during an inspection. In the case of the Cotton Mills or the Sugar Refinery, are you going to stop work there for 36 hours?

HIS EXCELLENCY—You ask that due notice should be given?

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—Yes. During Chinese New Year, when work ceases for a couple of days, I think that this inspection should be carried out, or it could be carried out during the period of the annual overhaul, which takes a week or ten days.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I think, sir, that in a case such as the hon. member refers to, the inspection could take place without any interference with the work.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—In section 10 there are certain rules which the Governor-in-Council should bear in mind in prescribing the time for inspection.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—What the hon. member said is perfectly correct. The annual overhaul in the event of a launch may take three or four days, and it may be out of commission during that time.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—That is the point.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I can assure the hon. members that everything will be done to avoid inconvenience. It is in contemplation, as far as possible, to appoint engineers of the firms where they are duly qualified.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—Will inspections take place on Sundays if required? Some factories knock off work on Sundays. If the Government will appoint private engineers to be inspectors it will overcome the difficulty, but as a matter of fact they do not appoint all private engineers in regard to launches. They appoint some, but not necessarily all, though qualified men. I have in my mind an application which was made by a duly qualified man, and which was refused.

HIS EXCELLENCY—These are matters which do not affect the actual wording of the Bill. I can only say that we will do our best to frame regulations under the Bill which will meet the wishes and convenience of all concerned. If the hon. member will be good enough to send in a memorandum or note, I will bear it in mind in the framing of the regulations.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—The whole difficulty would be overcome if the Government would appoint private qualified engineers.

HIS EXCELLENCY—That is the intention as far as possible.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—I can only say that the Government have actually refused.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I will inquire into that matter. Hon. members are satisfied, I take it?

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE—I am content, sir, to leave it at that.

On Clause 10,

Hon. Mr. GRESSON asked if it was not an anomaly that the engineer of a works, if he was going to inspect the boilers and machinery, should pay a fee to himself.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—An engineer will inspect more machinery than his own if he is appointed.

Council then resumed, and the ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through Committee, and moved its third reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' PENSION AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill "An Ordinance to amend the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Ordinance, 1908." The objects and reasons are sufficiently given in the memorandum at the

end of the Bill, and the law will assimilate that of Ceylon and the Straits Settlements.

The memorandum states that the object of the Ordinance is to repeal section 19 of the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Ordinance, 1908, which limits the pension of an Orphan to one-fourth of the widow's pension in cases where there are less than three children entitled to pension, and to provide that the whole amount of the widow's pension shall be equally divided among the children of a pensionable age.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

On resuming, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through Committee without amendment, and moved the third reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS' ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Protection of Women and Girls' Ordinance, 1897, as amended by the Protection of Women and Girls' Amendment Ordinance 1905." In doing so he said—In addition to the memorandum I might mention that section 2 of this Ordinance amends section 18 of the principal Ordinance by adding a new subsection, making it an offence to harbour an unmarried girl under the age of 18, and the effect of section 3 is to admit the sworn evidence of a child under six in cases of indecent assault. Section 4 is taken from the Statute 48 and 49 Victoria, known as the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The effect of this section is that where a person is charged with rape or felony under section 6, he can be convicted of any misdemeanours under sections 5 or 6.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

Council then went into Committee and considered the Bill clause by clause.

On resuming the ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through Committee, and moved that it be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RESERVATION OF LANDS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the Reservation of certain lands in Victoria, in the Peak District, and in Kowloon as Recreation Grounds, and to provide for Regulations as to the use thereof." In doing so he said—The objects of this Bill are set out in the memorandum attached. There will be a certain amendment with respect to section 3.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move that section 3 be struck out, and in lieu thereof the following sub-section substituted:—"The said pieces of land by this Ordinance reserved and appropriated are hereby declared to be public places within the meaning of the Public Places Regulation Ordinance of 1870, and all regulations relating to Blake Garden, West End Park and King's Park at Kowloon hitherto made under the said Ordinance are hereby confirmed, and shall be deemed to apply with respect to the pieces of land shown on the respective plans as Blake Garden, West End Park and King's Park respectively in the same manner as if such regulations had been made after the passing of this Ordinance."

Hon. Mr. STEWART—Are these regulations made by the Governor-in-Council, sir?

HIS EXCELLENCY—Yes.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—Is there any object in making it lawful for the Governor to reappropriate those lands? It appears to me that it is a very large power to vest in the Governor solely. It might be advisable to guard the public interest by giving this power to the Governor-in-Council, unless there is some good reason.

HIS EXCELLENCY—There is no special reason. The re-appropriation will appear in the *Gazette*, and can be questioned by any member of the Council.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The Crown gives and the Crown reserves the power to take away.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—On certain matters in connection with public places the Government occasionally acts in a way extremely distasteful to the public. I remember once the Government decided to cut down the trees on the polo ground, without the smallest notice. One fine day people walking in that direction saw that a row of trees had been cut down without any notice. That sort of thing ought not to be done without the public having some say in the matter.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The hon. member is at fault there, as those trees were not on the public ground at all.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—They were cut down without the public being notified.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—We are talking now of the recreation grounds. Those trees stood on land outside the recreation ground and were cut down for the enlargement of that ground whereby the public were much benefited. The only people who questioned it were certain polo players.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—If the hon. member who represents the Justices of the Peace wishes publicity given to a question he will not get it by referring the question to the Governor-in-Council. The matter to be made public should be discussed in the Legislative Council.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—There is a very able member of the Legislative Council on the Executive Council, and I have an idea that if anything were being done contrary to the public interest he would bring it up in the Legislative Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY—referred members to Ordinance 4 of 1898, which made it lawful for the Government to reappropriate such lands.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—I won't press the point. Council then resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through Committee and moved that it be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

PUBLIC PLACES REGULATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Public Places Regulation Ordinance, 1870." Cases have arisen where it is desirable to permit the use of public buildings, the Gardens and Recreation grounds, for social entertainments and charitable purposes and to allow gate moneys to be charged; without any question of the charges being *ultra vires*. It is desirable to make such charges as the Government may approve.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

On clause 2,

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—Does this apply to buildings such as the City Hall?

HIS EXCELLENCY—It applies to those places mentioned in the Public Recreations Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—It does not apply to the City Hall.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I don't see any penalty provided for anybody who gets in without a ticket.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—I asked particularly, sir, about the City Hall, because it has been rather noticeable that the Government at certain times have been inclined to think they have got the management of the City Hall. I certainly do not think they ought to have the power to deal with that particular building.

HIS EXCELLENCY—The City Hall is not affected by that Ordinance.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It is not a public building.

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—But the Government are always trying to interfere with the City Hall and are making regulations when they have nothing to do with it.

HIS EXCELLENCY—That assurance is sufficient to meet your point?

Hon. Mr. GRESSON—Yes, that covers my point, sir.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The hon. member at the end of the table (Captain Superintendent of Police) suggested that there was no

penalty for anybody entering without a ticket.

CAPTAIN-SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I don't see any power to prevent anybody going in.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I take, it, sir, there will always be a policeman at the gate. And if the law says we have power to close public ground then only people with tickets would be admitted.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—And a man without would be a trespasser.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Quite so, and he would be thrown out by the police.

Council then resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through Committee and moved the third reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

CHINESE EXTRADITION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the Chinese Extradition Ordinance, 1889." By section 12 of the principal Ordinance, where a fugitive criminal has been resident in the Colony for a year and upwards his case has to be considered by the Governor-in-Council, who has to be assisted in such consideration by the Chief Justice, and the Chief Justice would be placed in an embarrassed situation in the event of the fugitive criminal being ordered to be surrendered and then being brought up before the court on a writ of *habeas corpus*. Thus the necessity for this Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a second time.

Council then went into Committee to consider it clause by clause.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—Has such a case ever happened?

HIS EXCELLENCY—Quite recently, and on that occasion the Chief Justice asked that this clause might be inserted as he might be put in a difficult position of he had to try the case.

Hon. Mr. STEWART—It struck me as peculiar that this Bill has been in force for twenty years and that the question never arose before.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It very seldom happens that the man has been here a year.

HIS EXCELLENCY—And it is only in that case that the Chief Justice advises.

Council then resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL reported that the Bill had passed through Committee without amendment, and moved that it be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

TRADE MARKS AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled "An Ordinance to amend the law relating to Trade Marks." This Bill proposes to assimilate the law and practice of trade-marks with that in force in the United Kingdom. It is considered desirable in this large commercial community that there should be uniformity in matters of trade-marks with that of the United Kingdom. The Bill received the consideration in conference of the hon. member representing the Chamber of Commerce and also the hon. member the Chairman of the China Association, as well as of the Law Society. A few sections have been added to meet local requirements as the result of the conference to which I have alluded. This Bill is taken practically literally from the Ordinance of the Straits Settlements. The objects and reasons appear at the end of the Bill and it is considered that the legislation is required here.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Hon. Mr. HEWETT—It is perhaps just as well that I should endorse what has been said by the Attorney-General. Your Excellency was good enough to refer this Bill to the Chamber of Commerce and the Committee of the China Association. The hon. member who represents the Justices of Peace can speak more accurately than I, as I understand he is the Chairman of the Committee of the China Association, but all the points so far as I am aware which have occurred to the Chamber of Commerce or the China Association—and we consulted leading merchants interested—have been met in the Bill, which from a commercial point of view, must be regarded as satisfactory. It is not unlikely that the working of the Bill

may suggest alteration, but at present the Bill is accepted by us as satisfactory.

The Bill was then read a second time.

The Council then went into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

HIS EXCELLENCY—There are possibly one or two points outstanding which have not been settled, and we do not propose to-day to deal with the whole of the Bill. Those clauses which are debateable will be held over until this day fortnight. We propose, as the Bill is of great length, to read through a certain portion to-day and adjourn the remainder to a later occasion.

Several verbal amendments were made and the Bill was left in Committee.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned till this day fortnight.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the COLONIAL SECRETARY presiding. The following votes were passed:—

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600) in aid of the vote, Public Works, Recurrent, Water Works, Maintenance of Kowloon.

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of ninety dollars (\$90) in aid of the vote, Judicial and Legal Departments, Land Registry Office, other charges, incidental expenses.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of five hundred dollars (\$500) in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Coal.

CHARITABLE SERVICES.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of six hundred and fourteen dollars (\$614) in aid of the vote, Charitable Services, Passages and Relief of Destitutes.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

October 25th.

CLAN FIGHT.

A very serious clan fight took place lately between the inhabitants of Sam Sing Tong and Pak Tong Villages. The trouble arose over some trivial matter connected with the visit of a theatrical troupe. On Thursday the fighting was carried on all day and the strife was renewed on Friday. The fighting took place in the fields near the villages and resembled a pitched battle. Many persons were seriously injured before the officials restored order. It is said that the trouble is likely to break out again in the near future. That such events can take place within a dozen miles of the provincial capital speaks volumes for the rottenness and powerlessness of the local Government.

ECHOES OF THE GREAT STORM.

The recent storm caused considerable damage to the sandy shore near the Shek Wai Tong Railway Station. It is said that the landing place from the ferry has been rendered unsafe and that much money will have to be expended before things are put into order again. The storm also broke the railway line at a place called Wu Tung, while at Ying Tsui the line was flooded to such an extent that the trains could not run. Workmen are busily engaged in repairing the damage.

The artful rice dealers of Fatshan are taking advantage of the recent typhoon to raise the price of rice. As the least rise in this commodity falls very hard on the poorest section of the community much distress is being felt. It is said that the storm did very little damage to the fields in this district and that the dealers have only raised the price for their own selfish profit.

POLICE MATTERS.

The Director and the Provincial Military Bureau has prepared a scheme for the strengthening of the police force and the Viceroy has given it his official sanction. An officer has been sent to the North to investigate certain matters connected with the police system and on the completion of his mission he will return to Canton. A day or two ago certain Yamen runners under the charge of a petty officer and

the Nam Hoi district made an excursion in search of private opium smokers. A man named Chung Wah was shot and much excitement was thereby caused. At the trial which was held afterwards the petty officer was dismissed the service.

THE DYNAMITE SCARES.

In reference to the numerous finds of dynamite which have recently engrossed public attention, it is stated that detectives have been told off to keep a watch on the storehouses of the city and district and to ascertain, if possible, whether the deadly stuff is being manufactured in the country or being imported from abroad. If the latter is the case the detectives have been commanded to pay particular attention to trade-marks on the packages so that some trace of its origin may be discovered.

HOW CRIMINALS ESCAPE PUNISHMENT.

Some indignation is being felt at the result of the trial of a certain official who, for a certain grave offence was brought up many times for trial before the last Viceroy. The man was sentenced to be decapitated, but as a result of the petitions of various powerful friends the sentence was never carried out. The offender happened to belong to the same province as the late Provincial Treasurer and the latter exerted his utmost influence to defeat the law. It was held that the man's crime was committed before the decease of the late Emperor; and that therefore he was one whom the general pardon granted on the accession of the present monarch might benefit. He is soon to be set at liberty.

FURTHER BAD WEATHER.

As this is being posted (Tuesday morning) the rain is coming down in torrents, as it has done since 4 p.m. yesterday. During the night the wind has been very high and there is every sign that a great storm has occurred somewhere near.

PRATAS ISLAND.

It will have been observed that the official information published on the 4th inst., says the *Japan Mail*, was of a very vague character, as might have been expected, seeing that an agreement had not yet been actually signed. From particulars published in Tokyo, however, we gather that the rumour recently circulated as to the amount of compensation which is to be paid to Mr. Nishizawa was erroneous, and that instead of 2,000 yen, the actual sum is about 120,000. This mistake is explicable enough, in view of the Japanese method of counting. It is said that Mr. Nishizawa originally put in a claim for half a million and based it on the amount of capital said to have been actually sunk. But when the commissioners of the two Governments proceeded to the Island and inspected the outlays actually made, they found nothing but a few sheds and a short length of light railway. Evidently such property scarcely admitted of any valuation at all, and nothing remained to be asked for except some compensation for the loss of his business by Mr. Nishizawa. The Chinese, however, refused to entertain any proposal of that nature, and thus, as our readers doubtless remember, the negotiations drifted into an *impasse*. It was not until the change of Viceroys at Canton and the amicable settlement of the Chientao problem as well as its concomitant questions, that the Chinese consented to re-open the Pratas Island affair, and it was then settled on the lines that Mr. Nishizawa should receive a sum by way of compensation for the loss of his business, minus a charge for the Chinese property destroyed by him on the Island. It would seem therefore—we take these particulars from the *Asahi Shimbun*—that Chinese property was destroyed after all, in spite of the strenuous denials formerly published in certain quarters. The net result is believed to be that about 120,000 yen will come into Mr. Nishizawa's hands, and it appears to us that he may consider himself very fortunate, although of course he must have spent a great deal more than the value of the property on the Island actually represents.

Singapore Legislative Council will consider a motion by Mr. J. Turner that a committee be appointed to consider the question of increasing the Colony's revenue by taxing such imports as the committee consider should be taxed.

THE LATE PRINCE ITO.

THE ROMANTIC BEGINNINGS OF
A GREAT CAREER.

The reference books tell us that the great statesman of Japan whose career has just been so tragically ended was born in September, 1841, that he "escaped to England with Count Inouye in the days of the last Shogun and took part on the Imperial side during the war which led to the Restoration." This brief statement covers a story of the most romantic interest. We are not aware that any adequate biography of the great statesman has ever been written. From time to time Prince Ito has been urged to write an autobiography, but whether we are destined to have that fascinating story from his own pen Time will show. Ito Hirobomi was born of humble parentage, and the first time we come across his name in the literature which has been written about Japan we are told of his being smuggled on to an English ship in the dead of night to proceed to England with the object of improving his education. This first interesting and important incident in his career is fascinatingly told in "Gleanings from Japan," by Dr. W. G. Dickson, and we give the story in the author's own words:—

"Upon a fine summer evening in 1862, while residing with a friend in Yokohama under the hospitable roof of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., I returned home in the evening, and in passing through the little garden looking out to the beautiful bay of Yedo, I observed four young Japanese in European dress standing among the bushes and evidently wishing to avoid observation. I inquired who they were, as at that time four men lurking in a corner of a garden and trying to escape observation implied business of some kind—it might be with their pens, it might be with their swords. To my inquiries I was told that they were four young Samurai whom the Daimio of Choshu wished to send to England, to finish there the education which had been commenced in their native schools, and who by their energy had shown themselves worthy of being singled out to develop their talents by the study at head-quarters of foreign languages and European arts and sciences—that, in short, they were standing there till a suitable opportunity might occur during the evening of eluding the vigilance of the officers on shore, and the Yakunins on board the steamer, to ship them on board the vessel unseen by any of their countrymen. Knowing the Captain of the vessel, I volunteered to take them off at once in the Captain's gig, manned as it was by Chinese. Getting alongside, I hailed the Captain, and asking him if he could entertain the Yakunins in the cabin for a few minutes, we soon saw the four young men safely stowed away in a cabin out of sight of the officials, who were to leave the vessel for the night in a few hours. These were the forerunners of coming changes, of revolution, of the overthrow of existing institutions, of impoverishment and degradation to some, of wealth and station to others. They were all natives of Nagato, and subjects of the Prince of Choshu, and at his expense they were sent to England to study and report upon the conditions of European nations, their manners and customs, arts and sciences. It is improbable that in doing this, this noble was aware or had any presentiment that he was paving the way for his own effacement, for the loss of his principality and the power therewith connected, for the overthrow of all existing feudal institutions in Japan, and the demolition of the Scheme of Government set up by the Tokugawa family, through which he was what he was. Though these young men were thus surreptitiously huddled out of the country—and they doubtless felt some humiliation in laying aside the two swords which they were entitled as Samurai to wear and enjoined to respect, and in donning, instead of their own picturesque dress, the hated stiff foreign garb—yet there was some compensation for the step, and its depressing concomitants, in the face of their having been selected from among their fellow-students on account of the talent they had shown, and the superiority over their compeers of intellect, and aptness for acquiring and assimilating such pabulum as

would be placed before them in a practical education in Europe. Their subsequent career up to this time appears to have justified the selection. They are Nomura, Ito, Boonda and Inouye."

It was this Ito who became the greatest figure in the modern history of Japan, and the names of his comrades in that adventure are also inscribed on the roll of distinguished statesmen. Ito spent two or three years in England, and was befriended by Mr. Matheson, of the "Princely House." His return was hastened by the rapid development of the movement aiming at the overthrow of the Shogunate and the restoration of the Mikado to full power and authority as head of the State, a movement with which the Choshu and Satsuma clans were conspicuously identified. Ito on his return, if not before his departure, came under the influence of one Kido, the son of a doctor in the retinue of the Choshu daimio. Kido was Ito's senior by eleven years. As a young man he was chiefly distinguished for his skill in fencing, and established a school in Yedo (now Tokyo), where fencing and Chinese literature were taught—a common combination of studies in Old Japan. While in Yedo, Kido imbibed Imperialist sentiments and when the American Commodore Perry appeared in the Gulf of Yedo Kido, presumably out of a desire to improve his Western knowledge, engaged himself as a porter to carry about the apparatus, etc., of the surveying parties. He became marked by his countrymen as a bitter enemy of the Shogunate régime, and was obliged to hide himself during the Choshu campaign of 1864. We find him at this date in Nagasaki in the company of Ito, both representing themselves as Satsuma officials. There was at that time in Nagasaki one Joseph Heco, a Japanese who some ten or twelve years previously had been rescued in mid-Pacific by an American vessel, from a derelict junk which had been blown out to sea in a storm. He had been taken to the United States, and after re-crossing the Pacific to Hongkong and Macao, went back to San Francisco, as he knew that he could not safely return to Japan, where it was still a capital offence for any Japanese subject to go to a foreign country. Heco picked up a knowledge of English and became a naturalised American citizen before he again crossed the Pacific, and in 1864, as we have said, Kido and Ito sought his assistance at Nagasaki. "They at once," Heco writes in his interesting autobiography, "fell to asking me questions about foreign matters—more especially about the history of England and America, their institutions, governments and so forth. I answered their queries to the best of my ability. The elder (Kido) expressed himself as very much interested in the Constitution of the United States—he said it was quite new to him." It had struck Heco that though both his visitors seemed very pleased with his frank conversation and became very friendly, yet they were not at all inclined to be communicative about themselves. He mentioned this to his *banto*, who admitted that he recognised Kido as a Choshu samurai with whom he had on many occasions associated, and when Heco subsequently casually remarked to his visitors that their accent and idiom smacked more of the Inland Sea than of Satsuma, and inquired point-blank if Kido's name was not Katsura, astonishment overspread their faces and then followed smiles and explanations. "We are very unjustly considered and treated as rebels by the Shogun's Government, and on this account we borrow Satsuma's name whenever we come to Nagasaki on business."

The business which brought them to Nagasaki on this occasion was to seek Heco's assistance in helping the Restoration movement by explaining to foreigners the real attitude of the Choshu Clan, namely, that it was their desire to see the governing power fully restored to the real and legitimate sovereign, the Mikado, and that the Shogun should be deprived of the power which his predecessors had usurped and he himself had retained. They deemed this essential to the peace and progress of the Empire, as well as to the development of foreign intercourse which it was their wish to encourage. A few months later they again visited Nagasaki. In the meantime the Restoration had been making rapid progress. Civil war was imminent. Kido

had already acquired a knowledge of English) placed on some British man-of-war on the station. A portrait of Ito taken at this time shows him in black frock coat, white trousers and wearing a white helmet. Heco's acquaintance with English naval officers was very limited, but when Admiral Keppel came into port a few days later, Heco got an introduction to him, and with Kido and Ito went off to see the Admiral. It was explained to the Admiral that the Prince of Choshu had ordered several gunboats from England through an English firm in Nagasaki and that although some of these were to be sent out directly they would be practically useless since the Prince had no officers who knew anything of navigation, and that he (the Prince of Choshu) was exceedingly anxious to have some of his people placed on an English warship. "The Admiral's answer was that it would give him great pleasure to comply with the Prince's request; that Mr. Ito, or any other of his officers would be welcome on board any of the vessels on the station, and that when the *Rodney* came in he would at once make the necessary arrangements with her commander. Mr. Kido then said that his Government would defray all expenses, to which the Admiral said that 'that would be all right when Mr. Ito got on board'."

But Ito did not join the *Rodney* with the object of learning navigation. A few days before the *Rodney* was ready to sail, Kido made "an important communication" to Heco. "He said it was the wish of the Mikado's party (i.e. the Choshu, Satsuma and Tosa clans) to have Ito placed on board an English warship in order that he might watch events at Kioto and Osaka from a distance." What Ito learnt of navigation is not related. The crisis had been reached. The *Rodney's* voyage to Hiogo took much longer than had been contemplated, for calls were made at many intermediate places in the Inland Sea. By the time Hiogo was reached the civil war had begun. The Shogun had resigned his post, had first retired to his castle at Osaka, and subsequently got on board an American warship and fled secretly to Yedo. As a consequence the Shogun's authorities at Hiogo had chartered an American vessel, and, taking with them all the treasure and the official documents, had likewise sailed in her for the Tokugawa Capital. Ito, on learning the posture of affairs, at once landed, and collecting a small body of men with flags and lanterns bearing the party crests, went to the vacant Customs House and Governor's office and took possession of them in the name of the Mikado. He thereupon wrote to his friends in Kyoto informing them of what he had done and requesting them to send down troops for the protection of the town. The request was promptly complied with, and at the same time came the Imperial Commission appointing Ito Governor of Hiogo with authority over certain neighbouring districts. As his predecessor had left him with not an ounce of treasure, Ito called the bankers together and arranged with them for a loan upon the security of local taxes, and so was able to carry on the administration of the district.

This, then, was Ito's first step on the ladder of fame. While he remained at Hiogo he himself made the arrangements connected with the opening of the foreign settlement. Ito, however, was too valuable a man to be kept long in the obscure position of a district Governor. Young though he was, he was chosen as a member of the first Executive Council. In 1871 he was sent to Europe via America with the special embassy with the object of obtaining some revision of the Treaties. There is on record a speech delivered by Ito at San Francisco when passing through which so perfectly conveys the hopes and aspirations of the Government party at that early period of the new régime that it is worth quoting here in full:—

"This is perhaps a fitting opportunity to give a brief and reliable outline of many improvements introduced into Japan. Few but native Japanese have any correct knowledge of our country's internal condition. Our Mission, under special instructions from His Majesty the Emperor, who seeking to protect the rights and interests of our respective nations will seek to unite them more closely in the future, convinced that we shall appreciate each other more when we know each other better. To-day it is the earnest wish

of both our Government and people to strive for the highest points of civilisation enjoyed by more enlightened countries. Looking to this end, we have adopted their Military, Naval, Scientific, and Educational Institutions, and knowledge has flowed to us freely in the wake of foreign commerce. Although our improvement has been rapid in material civilisation, the mental improvement of our people has been far greater. While held in absolute obedience by despotic Sovereigns through many thousand years, our people knew no freedom or liberty of thought. With our material improvement they learned to understand their rightful privileges, which for ages had been denied them. Civil war was but a temporary result. Our *daimios* magnanimously surrendered their principalities, and their voluntary action was accepted by a general Government. Within a year a feudal system firmly established many centuries ago has been completely abolished. What country in the middle ages broke down its feudal system without war?

"By educating our women we hope to ensure greater intelligence in future generations. Our maidens have already commenced their education. Japan cannot claim originality as yet, but will aim to exercise practical wisdom by adopting the advantages, and avoiding the errors, taught her by the history of these enlightened nations whose experience is their teacher. A year ago, I examined minutely the financial system of the United States, and every detail was reported to my Government. The suggestions then made have been adopted, and same are already in practical operation.

"In the Department of Public Works, now under my administration, the progress has been satisfactory. Railroads are being built, both in the eastern and western portions of the Empire. Telegraph-wires are stretching over many hundred miles of the territory, and nearly one thousand miles will be completed within a few months. Lighthouses now line our coasts, and our shipyards are active. All these assist our civilisation, and we fully acknowledge our indebtedness to foreign nations.

"As ambassadors, and as men, our hope is to return from the Mission laden with results valuable to our country and calculated to advance permanently her material and intellectual condition. While bound to protect the rights and privileges of our people, we aim to increase our commerce; and by a corresponding increase of our productions, hope to create a healthy basis for their greater activity.

"Time, so burdened with precious opportunities, we can ill afford to waste. Japan is anxious to press forward. The red disc in the centre of our National flag shall no longer appear like a wafer over a sealed empire, but henceforth be in fact, what it is designed to be, the noble emblem of the rising sun, moving onward and upward amid the enlightened nations of the world."

Ito's subsequent career has nothing of the same glamour of romance except in the rapidity of his advance to the highest offices of the State. It is a record of strenuous labour in many directions. He went again to Europe and America in 1891 to gather material for the framing of a Constitution for Japan. He founded the present system of Government, established the present order of peerage in Japan, and was first President of the House of Peers; he had been Prime Minister on five occasions, had been President of the Privy Council, the first Resident-General of Korea, and for many years the most trusted adviser to the Throne. His strenuous life had left his health unimpaired and at the age of sixty-eight he seemed capable of rendering for many years to come services of the highest value to his country. On many occasions in the course of the great constitutional struggle had his life been in danger, but he long outlived the fanatical hatred his measures engendered among those wedded to the old ideals, and no statesman in any country has enjoyed in fuller measure the love and veneration of his countrymen than did Prince Ito during the last fifteen years of his life. No statesman or soldier in Japan has had greater honours bestowed upon him by his Imperial sovereign; and none have more richly deserved them.

It is profitless to dwell upon the horror and sadness of the tragedy which has brought the famous statesman's life to so sudden a close. Now that the labourer's task is o'er, the Japanese nation in the silent manliness of grief will find comfort in the reflection that the life of the deceased statesman, so long consecrated to the highest service of the State, has been so completely filled with splendid achievements which will remain an enduring monument to his memory.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 25th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

Five Chinese were arraigned on the charge of having on the 15th September murdered one Kwok Ying within the Colony. They were also charged with assault. The Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, K.C., instructed by Mr. Dennys, conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Eldon Potter, instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, appeared for the defence.

The following jury was empanelled; Messrs. J. D. Auld, A. Lopes, E. M. Hayward, T. Meek, R. Perrie, A. Kohler, and J. H. Bulmer.

The Attorney-General, in outlining the case for the Crown, stated that the affair seemed to have originated in bad feeling between two waiters' guilds, but how the quarrel originated there was no evidence to show. The facts were spoken to by the deceased who made a deposition before the Magistrate in presence of the accused men and also by Li Shing, a friend of the deceased. Those two were together when the affair took place, and there were besides two eye-witnesses of the affair. In the one instance an eye-witness speaks to the five prisoners being present and in the other the eye-witness identifies three of the prisoners. The story was that deceased and Li Shing were on the evening under notice walking together, and at the junction of Hollywood Road and Queen's Road West they were met by the five prisoners and a number of others, probably eight or ten, who attacked the two men. The five prisoners were alleged to have had various kinds of instruments in the shape of knives and pronged forks in their possession. One man escaped and went to the Central Police Station, where he laid information as to what had occurred. The deceased, who was injured, went to the Government Civil Hospital and was examined by Dr. Moore the following morning, who did not regard his wound as serious and the man was allowed to appear at the Police Court. Two days later he was again brought to the hospital and it was found he was suffering from peritonitis. As the only hope of saving his life was to perform an operation, that was undertaken by Drs. Moore and Koch, but the man died on the 19th September. A subsequent examination was made and it was then ascertained that the wound was more serious than originally diagnosed. There had been a penetration of the intestines, which had set up peritonitis and death was directly due to the wound inflicted which had caused peritonitis to follow. The case was one of identity. In his dying deposition the deceased spoke definitely to two out of the five men having attacked him, numbers two and four, two having struck him with an iron bar while four stabbed him. He also testified to the other three having taken part in the assault. In these circumstances the five men would be guilty of homicide, but the question for the jury was whether it amounted to murder or manslaughter. That altogether depended upon the circumstances.

Evidence was then called and the hearing adjourned.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

THE ICE CASE.

The Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge delivered their judgments on the point reserved as to special damages in the action at the

instance of the Hongkong Milling Company, of which Mr. H. Percy Smith is liquidator, against Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg and Co.

The Chief Justice in the course of his judgment said that assuming the defendants to be bound by Mr. Arndt's admission, it did not carry the plaintiffs' claim for loss of profits consequent on the cancellation of the contract with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson any further. Mr. Arndt was never informed for what purpose Jardine, Matheson & Co. wanted the ice. It apparently was wanted to put on the market with their own in order to supplement their own supply which had fallen short of the demand. They had ordered it to meet the demand, which was increasing, and they cancelled the order, relying on the fulfilment of the contract made by Mr. Rennie. The ice might have been wanted for other purposes for which it is quite fitted, for it was undoubtedly a merchantable article, and the absence of any information as to the purpose to which the ice was ultimately to be put, let in this—that it was not an absolutely necessary inference that the ice would not have been put on the market in spite of its rejection by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. He did not say the Milling Co. was bound to do this. It was only necessary to say that the information supplied to Mr. Arndt was not such as to exclude the possibility of this opening. The long and the short of the whole matter was that the contract was rather carelessly entered into by Mr. Arndt, for which the defendants have suffered; and by Mr. Rennie, for which the Milling Co. must suffer. It was clear that if they were entitled to a certain form of relief, if they fulfilled certain conditions, they were not entitled to that relief if they did not fulfil them.

The Puisne Judge also held that the claim for damages failed.

Mr. Alabaster, who appeared for defendants, asked for costs on all the points on which they had succeeded.

The Chief Justice pointed out that an order for costs had been made.

After argument the matter of costs was referred to the Registrar.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR
F. PIGGOTT.)

A PARTNERSHIP ACTION.

In the action in which Ng Tak Tong, as executor of the will of Ng Kim Wan, sued Wong Chung Cho for an order to have an account taken of the partnership dealings between the deceased and the defendant in the business of the Yuen Shing firm, of which defendant was managing partner, his Lordship the Chief Justice said he had no hesitation in applying the partnership Ordinance to this firm, as it carried on business in the Colony, and he gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

AN EXTRADITION CASE.

His Lordship gave judgment in the question relating to costs in the application for *habeas corpus* on behalf of Sun A Wan. He said after reviewing the facts of the case—The man was first charged with having committed an offence on October 30th, 1908, and the Magistrate was not satisfied as to the identification. He was secondly charged with another offence committed on 12th May, 1908; on this the Magistrate was satisfied, and the prisoner was committed to await extradition. This was set aside by the decision of the Court on the *habeas corpus* rule for irregularity. He is then re-arrested within six days on another charge for an offence committed in another locality on July 27th, 1908. There seems to be something wanting in this procedure. But I do not say any more than this: Where there is apparently a succession of applications for warrants, as in this case, the Magistrate ought to be exceedingly careful in issuing his provisional warrant under section 8, and to be quite certain that he would have issued the warrant in the same circumstances if the crime had been committed in the Colony.

Mr. Potter, for applicant—That covers the costs. We also get the costs of our application in chambers?

His Lordship—Yes.

Tuesday, 26th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

MURDER CHARGE FAILS.

The case was concluded in which five Chinese were charged with the murder of another Chinese on the 15th September within the Colony. The prosecution, which was conducted by the Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, K.C., instructed by Mr. Dennys, alleged that deceased and another man, both of whom belonged to a waiters' guild, were attacked on the day in question by a number of men belonging to a rival guild. The assailants carried various weapons and it was stated that one of them stabbed the deceased on the right side. He went to the hospital, but it was not considered that the wound was serious and he was allowed to leave in order to attend at the Police Court. However two days later his condition became more critical and an operation was deemed necessary, but he died under it. It was ascertained then that peritonitis had set up through the penetration of the intestines.

When the case for the Crown closed, Mr. Eldon Potter, who was conducting the defence of all five prisoners, said that he wished the jury to consider whether there was any evidence against the prisoners. If the jury were of opinion that the case for the Crown had not been proved he would ask them to discharge the defendant. If there were any doubt in their mind he would open for the defence and call fourteen witnesses, including the defendants, to prove an *alibi*.

His Lordship then addressed the jury and directed them to consider their verdict on the question of identity. If they were satisfied that the prisoners had not been identified they must discharge them.

The jury found accordingly and the prisoners were discharged. In the second charge, that of assault alleged to have been committed by them on Li Shing, the companion of the deceased at the time he was attacked, the Attorney-General entered a *nolle prosequi*.

Wednesday, October 27th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

CAPTAIN'S ALLEGED WRONGFUL DISMISSAL.

The action was continued in which Captain W. Cooper, lately master of the s.s. *Tak Hing*, sued the Sze Yap S.S. Co., Hongkong, for \$858.33, for wrongful dismissal on September 15th, 1909, \$750 being three months' wages in lieu of notice. Mr. Reader Harris (from the office of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. P. S. Dixon (from the office of Mr. R. Harding) appeared for the defendant.

Plaintiff, who was recalled, stated that the longest time he had ever taken to come in to the wharf on a Sunday was 30 minutes. On that occasion he could only work one engine. He explained the decrease of passengers since he was captain by stating that the company had put another and larger steamer on the run.

Cross-examined He did not know that it was a question of being quick or slow in coming to the wharf. He was always careful of the ship.

A. J. Lindberg, second engineer of the *Paul Beau*, said he was formerly engineer on the *Tak Hing*. The longest time the *Tak Hing* took to come alongside the wharf was about an hour and ten minutes.

Why did she take so long?—The ship is only ginger bread. She is pretty well done for. Everybody down the waterfront knows her. She has either a list on one side or the other and requires a good deal of handling.

Do you remember the two occasions on which Captain Cooper took over an hour to moor her?—Yes.

When were they?—One was the morning on which he got the sack.

He was discharged before that?—No.

John Acock, chief officer of the *Tai On*, said it was not true that on one occasion the *Tak Hing* took three hours to moor. The longest he knew of, while Captain Cooper was in command, was thirty-five minutes.

Thomas McCartney, chief engineer on the *Tai On*, said the longest time he had known the *Tak Hing* take to moor was twenty minutes, but he did not always see her.

The hearing was again adjourned until Monday.

Thursday, 28th October.

IN PROBATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE HON. MR. REES DAVIES (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

AN ABSENT EXECUTOR.

Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. Hinds, of Messrs Brutton and Hett, moved on behalf of Ku Fai Shan, executor of the will of Chuk Kai, for an order that the letters of administration of the deceased left unadministered and that the will annexed granted by the Court on April 26th, 1909, to Ip Iu Kwon be revoked and declared null and void.

No appearance was entered for Ip Iu Kwon.

His Lordship said he would like to ascertain whether the person concerned had had notice of the application.

Mr. Calthrop explained that the citation was served and the solicitors appeared and brought in the letters of administration. They knew at that time that those proceedings were going to be taken. The notice of motion was served on the solicitors in the ordinary way.

His Lordship asked if it would be possible for him to obtain information to show that this man was aware of the notice of motion.

Mr. Calthrop pointed out that they alleged that the man had got hold of the money and it was supposed he had gone out of the Colony.

His Lordship remarked that if the man had left the Colony it would be competent for his Lordship to take evidence on that point—evidence that the solicitors have been communicated with.

Mr. Calthrop said he had been instructed that this man's solicitors had been in communication with the man, but he would not appear.

His Lordship said that if Mr. Calthrop put that in the form of an affidavit that would advance matters.

Mr. Calthrop agreed to file an affidavit to that effect, and, after stating his case, the matter was adjourned to admit of his filing the necessary affidavit.

STRIKE OF SHIP PAINTERS.

INCREASED PAY DEMANDED.

After unsuccessful applications for an increase of pay by fifteen cents a day the ship painters of the Colony have gone on strike. On Saturday morning Chief Detective-Inspector Hanson was called to the office of the Registrar-General, where a deputation headed by Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, and consisting of employers and employees, assembled to discuss the matter. In consequence of what transpired at this meeting a painter named Mok Kau was arrested, and charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Oct. 27 with hindering two apprentices from pursuing their lawful calling by using threats of violence.

The master of the Shung Hing painters shop of 29, Coleman's Bazaar, told the Court that on the early morning of Saturday the defendant stood at the entrance to Coleman Street with a pencil and paper, and noted down the names of the two apprentices. He then said, "If you have heroism you won't go to work."

His Worship—Is that sufficient for a charge? Inspector Hanson—The difficulty is that these two apprentices will not come forward. As usual in these strikes, they are afraid of the consequences. I don't think this man has stated all he knows.

Witness told the Court that defendant also said, "If you do the work to-morrow you cannot enter the guild."

His Worship—If that is all the evidence, Mr. Hanson, I shall discharge the defendant.

Inspector Hanson—Will your Worship ask the witness whether the strike is still on, and how long it has been on?

His Worship (to witness)—Is the strike going on?—There is nobody at work now.

When did the strike start?—On Saturday.

Have the two apprentices joined in the movement?—No.

Are they still working?—They are.

Inspector Hanson stated that he had acted in this matter entirely under the Registrar-General. The strike was still on, and he believed the parties had been given till Wednesday to come to an understanding. He did not know what steps had been taken, but a further meeting was to be held at the Registrar-General's office.

His Worship—I must have further evidence that the defendant has threatened violence. All he said was that if the apprentices continued work they would be struck out of the guild. That is not a threat of violence.

Inspector Hanson—I leave the matter in your Worship's hands.

His Worship—I cannot do anything on that evidence. The defendant is discharged.

In connection with this strike a representative of the *Daily Press* interviewed the Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General, yesterday. He was informed that shipowners had been approached by the contractors employing the painters, but that the owners were not agreeable to increase the contract price to enable the employers to meet the demands of the workmen. The employers, however, appear to be in no hurry to end the strike as, in consequence of business being slack, they are not seriously handicapped. Again, they appear to be confident that the strike will not be general; and incline to the belief that if the disaffected painters decline to return to work, others will be found to carry on in their stead.

NEW SOLICITOR ADMITTED.

At the Supreme Court on Monday before his Honour Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz (Puisne Judge) the Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, K.C., moved for the admission of Mr. Christopher Wilson to practice as solicitor in the Supreme Court of Hongkong. He said that Mr. Wilson had been admitted to practice in England in 1893 and he had taken out a practising certificate up to the present, including the present year. His certificate of admission had been left in England, but his Lordship would see from the affidavits filed by two solicitors in this Colony that they knew of their absolute knowledge that he had practised in England. He came here under happy auspices, because, unlike most people, he had the advantage of the friendship of two of the solicitors already in practice in the Colony.

His Lordship said that under the circumstances he need have no hesitation in admitting Mr. Wilson, and he had much pleasure in doing so. He hoped that the exercise of his profession would be useful, pleasant and profitable.

AN AMAH'S HEROISM.

FRUITLESS SELF-SACRIFICE.

A Reuter's telegram from London this week has reported that the P. & O. steamer *Palawan*, which left London on October 9th, reports that whilst passing through the Suez Canal a child named Bird fell overboard. The Chinese amah who was in charge of the child jumped into the water in an attempt to rescue the child. Both were picked up, but both died two hours afterwards.

Among the passengers by the *Palawan* are Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Bird and child, and Mrs. Bird and children. Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Bird are well-known residents of Hongkong, Mr. Bird being with the firm of Messrs. Palmer and Turner, architects. They have two children. The telegram is believed to refer to one of these and the greatest sympathy is expressed in the Colony.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge, with thanks, the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

St. John's Cathedral	\$251.51
Union Church	124.63
Chinese Wesleyan Church	40.9
St. Paul's College Chapel	6.29

THE CAFE WEISMANN PROSECUTION.

ALLEGED SUPPLYING OF LIQUOR WITHOUT FOOD.

The hearing of the charge against the manager of the Cafe Weismann, of selling intoxicating liquor without supplying food, was again called on before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Thursday.

Detective-Sergeant Sullivan prosecuted, and Mr. Eldon Potter, instructed by Mr. Crowther Smith (of Messrs. Almada and Smith) appeared for the defence.

His Worship stated that with reference to the points raised by Mr. Potter on the last occasion he had filed on the record a copy of the report which appeared in the *Daily Press*, which contained a fairly full note of Mr. Potter's remarks. The report seemed very accurate, and he had filed it with the case in order to have on record what Mr. Potter said. His Worship asked if Mr. Potter had any objection.

Mr. Potter—Certainly not.

His Worship—The points you raised with regard to the sale of liquor and the sale of food, were that if the food was not included in the original contract between the parties, there was still no breach.

Mr. Potter—I say that it was included and paid for. I don't think it can be suggested that the order for a bottle of beer was one contract, the order for sandwiches another, and the order for the second bottles of beer a third contract. It has been held over and over again that an order cannot be split up in that way.

His Worship—The second point was about your client holding a transfer. I am prepared to overrule you on that. In the third point you say that the licensee is not liable under certain conditions. Whether he is liable or not will depend on the evidence you call.

Mr. Potter—I take it your Worship has overruled the food point?

His Worship—Yes.

Mr. Potter—And your Worship will state your grounds?

His Worship—In the final decision.

Leung Chan Fu was called and deposed to being a waiter at the Cafe Weissmann, in which service he had been for over a year. When he was engaged he was told not to serve any customer with drink unless that customer ordered something to eat. Notices to that effect were posted up in the establishment in Chinese. He remembered two customers calling about nine o'clock on the evening of October 1st. Witness asked them what they wanted, and they said "Pilsener beer." They were then asked whether they wanted cakes or sandwiches and the reply was "sandwiches." Witness took a plate of sandwiches and two bottles of beer on a tray. Later another customer entered and sat at the next table. Witness asked him what he wanted and he said "nothing but Kupper beer."

What did you say to that?—I asked him what he wanted to eat and he said he did not want anything. He said he only wanted beer.

Did you say anything then?—I said if he did not eat anything he could not have any drinks and I did not serve him.

Do you remember anything else?—The two customers who entered first then spoke to him, and the third man went and sat at their table. One of the first customers then called for three beers, but I did not supply them. I first asked the *taipan*.

What did the manager say?—He told me not to give any drink to the last man, but to supply the others, who had eaten something.

Who made their bill out?—The No. 2, as I cannot write English.

His Worship—Is not the rest admitted?

Mr. Potter—I think it is, but I was going to call witnesses who would prove that money was actually paid and that there was a *bona fide* mistake.

His Worship—The only point is whether the sandwiches were really bought or not.

Witness, proceeding, said he was quite certain the manager instructed him when he joined that he was not to supply drink without food.

In reply to his Worship, witness said he could not recognise the two constables, but he was sure it was the one with the moustache who

asked for sandwiches. He could take his oath that sandwiches were mentioned. If the constables said this was not so they were not speaking the truth. He took the sandwiches and beer to the customers on the same tray.

Mr. Potter said there was no doubt at all that sandwiches were, in fact, put on the table. There was a great conflict of evidence in the case for the prosecution as to when the sandwiches were brought and whether they were ordered. The constables agreed that they did not order them, but one constable said the sandwiches were brought a considerable period after the beer was supplied, and the other said that the sandwiches and beer were supplied practically at the same moment. If his Worship believed the latter constable's story it practically proved his case, which was that the sandwiches were in fact ordered and brought. Counsel suggested that the constables had made a mistake about this case. The second man admitted that probably they did not understand the boy's pidgin English. He thought it was fair to say that a man who did not understand pidgin English would find it rather difficult to understand what the boy said, and the mere word "sandwiches" would be quite sufficient for the boy, because it was obvious that the boy understood little English. It was quite possible that the constables were making a *bona fide* mistake. His Worship had just said that the point in this case was whether the sandwiches were ordered or not. With all respect he submitted that that was not the only point. Assuming that the constables simply ordered beer the law—and all were presumed to know the law—that if they went into the premises of an adjunct licensed holder they could order beer, but the adjunct licence holder or his servant could say that he would give them beer but they would have to take food. Taking that argument a step further it came to this—if the constable did not order sandwiches the servant was quite entitled to supply the beer and then put the sandwiches before the constables and compel them to pay for them. The servant would then be doing what he could to comply with the law. But the constables saw they were in the wrong, thought they had better pay for the sandwiches, and did pay for them. Once those sandwiches were paid for, there was beyond all doubt a sale of food. His Worship was inclined to hold that unless the sandwiches were ordered first and the beer afterwards, Weissmanns ought to be convicted, but there was nothing in the Ordinance to suggest that or anything like it. All the Ordinance said was that an adjunct licence holder was a person who might sell spirits and intoxicating liquors as an adjunct to his business. If because Constable Spillet used the word "beer" before "sandwiches" the defendants were to be convicted; that would be straining the Ordinance against the defendant, and there was no authority by which his Worship could convict a man in such circumstances. His Worship might be disposed to go according to the spirit of the Ordinance, and say he was of opinion that these sales of food were only a subterfuge. On that point Counsel would refer him to the adjunct licence. The licence gave power to a confectioner to sell two gallons of intoxicating liquor with a five cent tart.

His Worship—There is a delegated authority of some kind.

Mr. Potter—There is no authority to supply liquor without food.

His Worship—But there is a delegated authority to supply liquor with food, while the licensee remains on the premises he has delegated authority to these boys, and they supply each customer who comes in.

Mr. Potter—In a particular way. If, on that night Mr. Eckhardt had left the premises and said to the No. 2 that he was going home, and a breach of the law had occurred during his absence, he would have been clearly liable. In this case the manager was on the premises, and the boy went to him for advice.

His Worship—Which advice was taken subsequent to the sale.

Mr. Potter said it was subsequent to the first sale, but with regard to the third customer the boy was wily enough to see that there had been no sale of food, and that there might have been an infringement of the Ordinance. That was the strongest piece of corroborative evidence

they could have that Mr. Eckhardt took every possible precaution. Another rather suggestive point was that the same boy supplied both the sergeant and the two constables, and refused the sergeant a second time, although the second trap was a most ingenious one on account of there being food on the table. What the prosecution wanted his Worship to believe was that although the boy refused to commit a breach of the Ordinance in the sergeant's case, he was willing to do so in the case of the constables. Counsel submitted that this was really absurd, and that it was not a fair suggestion. If his Worship had any doubt, the defendants were entitled to the benefit of it.

His Worship reserved his decision until Monday morning.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG
DAILY PRESS."]

THE MILITARY REBATE.

SIR,—“Roderick Random's” failure to see the logic of the argument which I advanced in support of a return to the Military Authorities of the duty paid by the Garrison on liquor, instead of a remission of the duty, arises out of an erroneous notion that each private soldier's share is to be commensurate with his individual consumption. That is not the case. The amounts each man will get depends upon his rating, not upon the quantity of liquor he consumes. The total abstainer will share equally with others. There is thus no motive for drinking, and the story of the co-operative society, told by your correspondent is seen to have no application.

My idea was that if each man were to receive his share of the return at fairly long intervals—say, every three months instead of every month—the large amount accumulated might make it seem better worth while putting by.

Yours truly,

M. STEWART.

Hongkong, October 25th.

THE CLOCK TOWER.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG
DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, 23rd October, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—I feel sure many an old resident in Hongkong sympathised with Mr. Murray Stewart in his plea for the retention of the old Clock Tower. Hongkong cannot boast of a long and varied history, and therefore any monument that has existed for fifty years may be regarded as an antiquity and worthy of our sympathy and respect. The Tower was erected in what we call the Mid Victorian age—an age which we now regard with horror for their treatment of ancient things. Our grandfathers destroyed or “restored” (which was often almost worse) ancient buildings, and banished to the attics the beautiful furniture of their grandfathers. We now regard them as Philistines for what they destroyed or restored, and we rescue their cast-off furniture from the attics and venerate it. Let us be careful lest we be regarded by our grandchildren as Vandals and Goths for destroying our only ancient monument—which they, gazing at some ancient photograph or picture-postcard may consider a miracle of beauty and design. And as to the appearance of the building to the present day eye, everyone would not agree with the sentence of ugliness; many might prefer its simple and unostentatious architecture to some of the buildings being erected near it at the present moment, and surely it is a dangerous precedent in this Colony to pull down a building because it is ugly! Where could we stop? As to its being an obstruction, there is plenty of roadway on either side of it, and as to its utility, my sex at least will acknowledge how many a tram or ferry they would have missed if they had not had a glimpse of the face of that clock.—Yours truly,

A LADY RESIDENT.

THE LANGKAT CASE AT SHANGHAI.

The claim for Tls. 55,000 damages brought by Mr. M. M. Tackey against Mr. R. S. F. McHain occupied the Supreme Court of Shanghai for three days last week. The trial came on before Sir Havilland de Saumarez, Judge, and Messrs. W. Poignand, A. R. Fullerton, F. A. Pearson, M. F. H. Gray, and G. A. Richardson, jurors.

Mr. T. Morgan Phillips and Mr. H. S. Oppe appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. R. N. Macleod and Mr. R. E. S. Gregson represented the defendant.

Mr. Oppe read the amended statement of claim as follows:—

1.—The plaintiff is and was at the times hereinafter referred to the holder for value of 195 numbered shares in the Maatschappij Tot-Mijn-Bosch-en Landbouw-exploitatie in Langkat and of instruments of transfer for the same duly signed by the registered holders of the same and was prior to the events hereinafter set out entitled to be placed on the register of shareholders of the said company in respect of the same.

2.—The said company is a public company carrying on business as extractors and dealers in oil in Sumatra, Shanghai, and elsewhere with a capital of 2,500,000 Guilders divided into 25,000 shares of 100 Guilders each. The said shares have for some time past and are still extensively dealt in on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the price thereof is quoted daily in the official or other record of the same.

3.—The defendant is a British subject and is a Director and the General Agent of the said company at Shanghai and as general agent manages the affairs of the company in Shanghai.

4.—On or about April 10, 1909, the defendant as such General Agent and Director in Shanghai as aforesaid received by cable news that oil had been found on the company's property in Sumatra in great quantities.

5.—The said discovery was of great importance to the said company and the news thereof if then published would have greatly immediately appreciated the value of the shares of the company on the market.

6.—The defendant omitted to make known and improperly concealed with fraudulent intent the said news from the general body of shareholders in the company from the time of its arrival until April 19.

7.—During the said period on or about April 15, 16 and 17 the defendant stated orally to certain persons members of the Shanghai Stock Exchange and others (other than the plaintiff or his agent) that no news affecting the value of the company's property in Sumatra or otherwise had been received by him or by the company. Such statements were to the defendant's knowledge false and fraudulent and were calculated to deceive and did deceive the public including the plaintiff (meaning thereby the dealers in and holders of shares in the Langkat Co.) with regard to the same and were calculated to and did give rise to false rumours regarding the reason of the rise in the price of the shares hereinafter referred to.

8.—Omitted.

9.—The defendant further represented orally to the said persons and on the said occasions that the rise in the price of the shares hereinafter referred to was not due to the receipt of any news, but was due to some other cause, well knowing that such representation was false.

10.—Omitted.

11.—During the said period the defendant corruptly and improperly communicated the said news to or allowed the said news to be communicated to or obtained by certain persons other than the plaintiff and the general body of shareholders with the result that such persons were willing to and did buy shares of the company in the market at higher prices than had immediately before the arrival of the said news been offered for the same and by reason of such willingness on their part other persons were induced to sell at less than the true market value of the said shares at the said date in the belief that there was no cause for the said rise in the market price of the same.

12.—During the said period on April 14, 15 and 16 the plaintiff's agent in Shanghai relying on repetitions by third parties of the said false statement as to part of the shares so sold, sold the plaintiff's shares at prices less than the true market value of the same, in the belief that the prices offered for the said shares represented the true market value of the same, whereas in truth and in fact they did not.

13.—Omitted.

14.—The plaintiff claims Tls. 55,000 damages sustained by him by reason of the facts hereinbefore set out being the difference approximately between the price at which the plaintiff sold the said shares and the price at which the said shares could have been purchased upon and after the publication of the said news.

Mr. Macleod read the statement of defence as follows:—

DEFENCE.

1.—The defendant has no knowledge of the matters alleged in paragraphs 1 and 12 of the statement of claim and leaves the plaintiff to prove such allegations.

2.—The allegations in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the said statement of claim are admitted.

3.—On the tenth day of April, 1909, the defendant as general agent and director in Shanghai of the Company received from the Company's agent in Sumatra a telegram reading "Hole No. 94—888 feet—boring finished. The result is beyond expectation. Output 80,000 gallons daily—salt water nil—great pressure—very much better than all previous," and the defendant did not make known such news to the general body of shareholders in the Company until April 19.

4.—The defendant denies each and all of the allegations in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the said statement of claim except so far as they are consistent with paragraph 3 hereof.

5.—The defendant denies each and all of the allegations in paragraphs 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13.

6.—The defendant will object that the statement of claim is bad in law and discloses no cause of action against him on the ground that:—

(a) False and fraudulent statements to persons other than plaintiff or his agent calculated to deceive, deceiving the public and giving rise to false rumours give no right of action to the plaintiff.

(b) There was no duty of the defendant to the plaintiff to give him the news withheld or to abstain from communicating or allowing to be communicated to or obtained by others the said news.

(c) The damages are not natural and probable consequences of the acts and omissions alleged.

VERDICT.

The reports of the trial have occupied many columns in the Shanghai papers. The trial lasted four days, being concluded on Friday. We take the following from the *N. C. Daily News*:—

The jury retired at 12.10 p.m. for an hour and three-quarters. When his Lordship came back into Court and asked the foreman if he could help them in any way to come to a conclusion, the foreman said that he did not think so. They hoped to come to a decision, but if they could not do so, they would come to his Lordship for further assistance. At 2.30 p.m. the jury returned to Court and informed his Lordship that they had agreed on two points—they could not agree on the third. He asked if the verdict must be unanimous. His Lordship said it must be, unless the parties consented to a majority verdict, and asked if he could assist the jury on any particular point. The foreman asked if his Lordship would deem it right for them to let him know on which points they did agree. His Lordship having replied in the affirmative, the foreman announced that the jury answered the first question and the third question in the affirmative. They could not agree on the question of intention, which was a very difficult point.

His Lordship then further directed the jury on this question. The foreman of the jury asked the Court: Would the knowledge of the results of his act on the market prove intention? His Lordship replied in the negative.

Mr. Phillips asked his Lordship if he would note an exception to that ruling. His Lordship replied that he would make a note what Mr. Phillips said, but he would not note an exception to the ruling because that was not the practice of the Court.

Mr. Oppe then addressed his Lordship on the law, and a lengthy discussion ensued.

The foreman of the jury asked if the question of the influence on the market had anything to do with it? His Lordship replied that it had not. The foreman said that in that case he did not think that they would have any difficulty.

Shortly before three o'clock the jury again returned to Court, and answered the second question in the negative. The questions and answers were as follows:

(1) Did the defendant make a false representation to Anderson and others to the effect that no news affecting the value of the Company's property in Sumatra or otherwise had been received by him or by the Company?—Yes.

(2) When making this statement did the defendant directly intend that brokers and holders or shares in the Langkat Company should act upon such information by selling their shares on April 15, 16 and 17?—No.

(3) Did the plaintiff being a holder of shares in the Langkat Company in fact act upon such information, and was he damaged by doing so?—Yes.

Mr. Macleod on this finding applied for judgment with costs.

His Lordship entered judgment for the defendant with costs.

THE JAPANESE NAVY.

DETAILS OF NEW VESSELS.

The vessels now in course of construction are as follows:—

NAME.	CLASS.	TONNAGE.
"Kawachi"	Battleship...	20,800
"Settsu"	"	20,800
"Aki"	"	19,800
"Satsuma"	"	19,800
"Ibuki"	Armoured cruiser...	14,620
"Kurama"	"	14,620
Four cruisers	"	5,000
"Tone"	Dispatch boat...	4,035
"Kaifu"	Destroyer...	1,150
Two destroyers	"	1,150

The "Kawachi" and "Settsu" are to be launched next year, the "Aki" is now under equipment, the engines being already fitted; the "Satsuma" and "Kurama" will be shortly completed; the "Ibuki" is about to take service, the "Tone" is now completed, the "Kaifu" will be completed next year, the two destroyers in 1911, and the four cruisers in 1912. The *Roche* notes that the "Kawachi" and "Settsu" are of an improved "Dreadnought" type, and that the "Ibuki" and "Kurama" are little inferior to the Indomitable of the British Navy, which is regarded as the most powerful armoured cruiser now afloat. The "Indomitable" is a vessel of 18,750 tons with a speed of 25 knots, equipped with eight 12-inch, and sixteen 4-inch guns, while the "Ibuki" and "Kurama" are each of 14,620 tons with a speed of 22 and 21 knots respectively, equipped with four 12-inch, eight 8-inch, and twelve 4-inch guns. The three cruisers are not so strongly armed, but they are designed for great speed and navigating power. The "Kaifu" and two other destroyers are of the type of large destroyer now coming into vogue, each having the great speed of 35 knots.

THE "RAGNAR" FOUNDERS.

The Danish tug *Protector* returned to the Colony yesterday after a visit to the scene of the wreck of the Norwegian steamer *Ragnar* on Pattle Island. On Monday morning those on board the *Protector* took observations of the stranded steamer and came to the conclusion that they could refloat her, but before starting operations they decided to have tiffin. During the meal, however, the *Ragnar* was lifted by a heavy swell, and foundered before the *Protector* had an opportunity of putting into operation the scheme for refloating her.

So far, Mr. Eitzen, the Norwegian Consul, has received no word of the missing engineers, but hopes that they were picked up by the *Prometheus* or some other passing steamer, and that he will receive news of their safety from Bangkok.

LOCAL SPORT.

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v. BUFFS.

This match was played on the Club ground on Saturday before a large number of spectators, who, despite the inclemency of the weather, turned out to witness what was expected to be a good match. The teams were:—

H.K.F.C.—J. Clark; F. G. Carroll and J. McCubbin; H. W. Kilby, R. C. Barlow and A. Gregory; A. Aitcheson and W. Weston; A. Whitmarsh; E. A. May and J. D. Danby. Buffs.—Black; Ruler and Bartlett; Dare, Wren and Tappsett; Fitzpatrick and Drew; Taylor; Brewster and Barker.

Kicking off facing the pavilion end the Club forwards made a raid on the Buff territory and Bartlett and Ruler were kept busy keeping them from getting through. This was only a flash in the pan, however, as from the time the ball began to get slippery the Buffs had the game well in hand.

The first goal was the result of a mis-kick by McCubbin, the ball skidding off his foot into the net. The soldiers, more at home on the slippery soil than their opponents, were all over the Club players, and Taylor beat Clarke twice before the interval.

In the second half the Buffs showed their superiority still further by adding three more goals.

The spasmodical runs by the Club forwards met with little success, as they never seemed to have full control over the ball. The game ended with the scores:—Buffs, 6; H.K.F.C., 0.

For the winners Taylor was best and it was largely due to his individual efforts that the score was so great. Dare at half-back worked well, but an over willingness spoils his play, and an over eagerness makes some of his attempts to get the ball come under the heading of "dangerous play." Ruler, getting the greater amount of work to do, did it well, and it is a pleasure to learn that there is no likelihood of him giving up football this season.

The Club players have all been seen to better advantage than on Saturday. McCubbin was unfortunate in being elbowed in the windpipe during one of the rushes of the Buff forwards. Clark, could not be blamed for the goals scored against his side, and some of his saves were excellent. Gregory worked hard, as did Barlow, the latter giving Black the only shot he had any difficulty in saving.

Summing up, the Buffs were the better team and deserved their win; but on a dry afternoon with the same teams the Buffs would have all the way to go for points.

KOWLOON v. R.E.

The meeting between these teams was very interesting and the spectators enjoyed what was certainly a good game. Kowloon were well served by their forward quintette and the weakness of their back line was well covered by Storrie and Lapsley. The soldiers were not seen at their best either, their defence not being as strong as usual and the team showing a general slackness, which was altogether unexpected. The R.E. set off in good style, but their attacks on the home goal were rather indifferent. A sharp contrast was supplied by the Kowloon men, who, once they got possession, lost no time in becoming dangerous, and the game was scarcely ten minutes old when Morris drove a low shot into the goalkeeper, who stopped it, but as the ball was greasy it slipped through his hands and the first point went to Kowloon amid great applause. Encouraged by this success the homesters settled to the attack and the smart play of their lighter forwards enabled them to dash through before the soldiers could get near them, and Wilkie had the honour of the second point, the slippery ball giving the custodian no chance. Half-time—Kowloon, 2 goals; R.E., 0.

In the second half the Engineers played more effectively, and after ten minutes fast and exciting play Morrish beat Foulkes. Quick exchanges followed, but a foul against Storrie gave the visitors a good opportunity, of which they took advantage and the soldiers gained the equalising goal. The prospects at this stage were in favour of the Engineers, the more especially as Kowloon's speedy rushes were wasted by wild shooting. However, their

defence proved equal to all demands and though the issue was in doubt to the end, owing to the dangerous speed of the Kowloon men once they broke away, no further scoring took place, and time was called with the register standing: Kowloon, 2 goals; R.E., 2.

LEAGUE TABLE.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst.	Points
Buffs	3	3	0	0	17	1	6
R. G. A.	2	2	0	0	8	2	4
Kowloon	3	1	1	1	7	6	3
R. E.	3	0	1	2	4	6	3
H. K. Club	3	0	2	1	1	11	1
Naval Yard	2	0	2	2	0	13	0

CRICKET.

League.

R.E. v. CIVIL SERVICE.

Civil Service were at home to the R.E. on Saturday afternoon. The soldiers went to the wicket first and compiled 115, and it looked when the others went in that a draw would result. However, the R.E. managed to get the C. S. out on the last ball of the over and secured a decided victory. Scores:

R.E.		
Cpl. McGregor, c McEwen, b Reid	39	
Spr. Harris, b Reid	13	
Sgt. Power, run out	38	
Cpl. Osman, c Bird, b Reid	11	
Sgt. Wallbank, b Bird	0	
Cpl. Harrison, c Jackson, b Reid	2	
Sgt. Keane, not out	9	
Extras	3	

Total	115
Spr. Klea, Spr. Sturdy, L.-Cpl. Davidson and Spr. Walker did not bat.	

CIVIL SERVICE.

F. A. Biden, c Harris, b Osman	3
E. W. Dawson, c Power, b Osman	2
A. R. F. Raven, lbw Wallbank	2
J. G. McEwen, c Klea, b Wallbank	5
E. Reid, c Power, b Wallbank	1
A. M. Thornhill, b Wallbank	8
T. Jackson, b McGregor	11
R. E. O. Bird, c Power, b Osman	5
Pile, b McGregor	3
McKay, not out	4
Extras	2

Total

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Osman	10	3	11	3
Keane	3	0	9	0
Wallbank	11	1	17	4
McGregor	3	0	5	2
Klea	1	0	2	0

Test Match.

H.K.C.C. v. GARRISON.

The match between the Hongkong Cricket Club and the Garrison started on Saturday afternoon was not completed. The scores when stumps were drawn were:—

GARRISON—FIRST INNINGS.		
Capt. Beasley, st. Elborough, b Young	16	
Capt. Garnett, c and b Oliver	1	
Capt. Baird, st. Elborough, b Oliver	127	
D. K. Anderson, c Hutchison, b Young	0	
H. W. Green, c and b Makin	14	
Capt. Clapham	0	
Capt. Crawford, not out	9	
H. G. Bagnall	0	
J. C. Innes, c Elborough, b Oliver	0	
R. P. Weed, b Oliver	4	
E. C. Norman, not out	1	
H. Liepmann	9	

Total

H.K.C.C.—FIRST INNINGS.

T. E. Pearce, not out	15
A. C. E. Elborough, b Baird	4

Friendly

POLICE "A" v. CIVIL SERVICE "A."

This meeting took place on the Civil Service Ground and ended in a win for the Police by 26 runs. Scores:

POLICE "A."		
P. P. J. Wodehouse, b Gast	0	
J. Ogg, c Croucher, b Field	9	
A. Counsell, c and b Field	5	
W. Cooper, c Davey, b Bacon	14	
D. McHardy, b Bacon	18	
S. Bell b Gast	42	
K. McLennan, b Adams	10	
J. Marks, b Adams	2	
J. Moody, c Croucher, b Gast	4	
J. E. Baker, not out	3	
G. Glendinning, b Gast	8	
Extras	11	

Total

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Gast	5.5	0	18	4
Field	7	0	33	2
Bacon	3.5	0	30	2
Adams	5	0	29	2

CIVIL SERVICE "A."

D. McKenzie, b Moody	2
F. Sutton, b Bell	17
F. Brewer, c Ogg, b Bell	6
G. R. Field, c Glendinning, b Bell	11
A. Davey, b McHardy	2
P. R. Adams, not out	43
W. Gast, b McHardy	0
F. Bacon, b Moody	1
C. W. Doughton, c Bell, b Glendinning	1
F. Croucher, c and b Cooper	1
R. Thomson, c Ogg, b Moody	14
Extras	2

Total

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Moody	9	1	32	3
McLennan	3	0	5	0
Bell	7	0	26	3
McHardy	3	0	6	2
Glendinning	2	0	10	1
Cooper	3	0	15	1

KOWLOON A v. WATSON'S.

Watson's XI. were at Kowloon on Saturday and retired beaten by 23 runs. Jeffries was top scorer for Kowloon with 30, and Harper's 14 put him at the head of Watson's batsmen. Scores:

WATSON'S.		
H. S. Spurge, b Curwen	1	
H. Taylor, c Moore, b Elson	5	
R. Phillips, b Goldsmith	12	
J. Clark, b Goldsmith	3	
G. R. Miller, b Goldsmith	3	
H. Rapp, c Robinson, b Somerville	10	
G. Harper, c and b Somerville	14	
J. R. Suiter, c Robinson, b Goldsmith	4	
E. James, run out	0	
E. J. Spittles, b Somerville	1	
J. Fraser, not out	1	
Extras	12	

Total

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Curwen	7	1	13	1
Elson	3	0	13	1
Goldsmith	7	0	22	4
Somerville	3	2	15	3

KOWLOON.

C. W. Jeffries, c and b Taylor	30
S. R. Moore, c Suiter, b Taylor	1
H. E. Goldsmith, b Taylor	0
A. Somerville, run out	0
W. Elson, b Taylor	2
T. Chee, c Suiter, b Spurge	1
W. Curwen, c Rapp b Taylor	4
W. Weaser, b Clark	22
Capt. Park, b Taylor	3
J. Robinson, b Taylor	19
T. Ramsay, not out	2
Extras	5

Total

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Taylor	13	5	37	7
Spurge	7	0	20	1
Millar	2	0	14	0
Rapp	1	0	2	0

SPORTING NOTES.

CRICKET.

Our cricket season is not opening up at all well. The weather from a cricketing point of view has been most disappointing, and as a result those whom we look to uphold the honour of the Colony in the forthcoming matches are being denied the practice they wish but few exceptions want so badly. However, the clouds are not without a streak of silver lining; Capt. Baird's 127 on Saturday was a fine effort, Capt. Beasley and Lieut. Green being the only other members of the Garrison team to make anything like a stand, the former scoring 16 and the latter 14. Four ducks were registered during the afternoon. Oliver was again successful with the ball and may now be looked upon as a certainty for the interport team. It was rather a pity that Power was not playing. On the other hand, one cannot but sympathise with him for sticking to his own team, and considering his performance on Saturday he certainly deserves his place in the team representing the Colony.

The league match between the Civil and Royal Engineers provided one of those little surprises that so often come along and which make the game so fascinating.

The Engineers batted first and facing the bowling of Bird and Reed contented themselves with scoring at the rate of one run per over for quite a long time, the first half hour's play producing something like 20 runs. Bird's bowling was particularly difficult to play, maiden after maiden being sent down. When the score stood at 60 for two wickets they quickened the pace and finally retired with 115 to their credit with the loss of six wickets. Power contributed 38 before being out by a smart return from Jackman. He was in great form, his straight drives being very attractive. McGregor scored 39 by very patient play and was probably responsible for the win of the R. E. team. Civil Service were short of Hutchison, Brett, Sutherland and Wutchell, and found to their cost that it does not pay to take any team too cheaply. None of their bats made anything of a stand till the last wicket, or rather the ninth, as they were playing with one man short, when Pile and Mackay, with ten minutes to go, played for a draw against time. The former played the last ball of the match on to his wicket. Time was up as the last ball was delivered and an interesting point was raised as to whether the result was a win or a draw.

The point open to discussion is this:—Nine wickets had fallen and time was declared. Under ordinary circumstances it would be a draw, but as the Civil Service had only ten men fielding, were they entitled to bat eleven? If any member of the club had been allowed to go to the wickets it must have been a draw, as it was then too late to send another ball down.

UMPIRE.

FOOTBALL.

The games played on Saturday afternoon did not provide anything in the way of surprises so far as results went, but no one expected the Club to go under by such a wide margin. The H.K. Club in losing by six goals did not do themselves justice, but the complete collapse of the team was entirely due to the unsuitable condition of the ground which would not at any time suit the play of the Club players.

The League champions are going strong and the only issue at stake so far in their matches seems to have been how many goals they would win by. When the game with the Club had been about ten minutes in progress on Saturday it was evident that there was only one team in it; it might be nearer the mark to say one player, as Taylor the centre of the Buffs, was the only player who seemed to be able to control the ball on the slippery surface. Judging by the form shown by Fitzpatrick at outside right he should be a fixture, and with the quintette thus decided the Buffs will no doubt take some ousting from their position at the top of the League table.

Kowloon made a good stand against the Sappers on Saturday and will take a lot of beating on their ground across the harbour. The defence is still the weak point, but rumour has it that an ex-Scottish leaguer lately arrived in the Colony has been secured and is likely to be seen playing for them on Saturday. Lapsley and Stubs did well in their new positions, and Bishop, an ex-Y.M.C.A. player at half, would have been more effective if less erratic.

The Sappers were without the services of no less than three of their regular players and had some difficulty in managing to divide the points with Kowloon. The fact that Morrish was the only goal-scorer for the Sappers proves my assertion of last week that they cannot do without this player in the forward line. The Sappers hope to be at full strength on Saturday, when they meet the Gunners on the Mititary ground, and this being the tit-bit of the afternoon a large crowd of spectators will be present to see these old rivals decide the destiny of a brace of points. The misunderstanding which prevented the Naval Yard-R. G. A. match being played was an unfortunate one, and one which is not likely to be repeated. It must have been very annoying to the R. A. players, some of whom travelled from Stonecutters and Lyemun, to find on their arrival at the Valley that the match could not be played.

The second division of the League, which some people will persist in miscalling the junior division, did not have a very successful commencement on Saturday. Of four matches to be played only one took place, two being cancelled owing to Artillery gun practice and the A Coy. v. Moslem being postponed owing to the non-appearance of the referee.

The H. K. Club have been good enough to grant the use of their ground at least once a month for second League fixtures, thus helping to overcome the ground difficulty. Kowloon have also been approached, and no doubt they in their turn will do all they can to help.

Considering the difficulty goalkeepers have in holding the ball on a wet day it seems to me to be courting defeat not to supply them with rubber gloves. The slippery ball has had a lot to do with two heavy defeats already this season, and secretaries would do well to see to this matter before the season is much older.

A great fault with local linesmen is that they do not keep the flag above their heads when the player is about to throw in the ball. This of course adds to the work of the referee, who, in addition to doing his own work has to satisfy himself whether the throw-in was a foul or not.

LEADING GOAL SCORERS.

Taylor, Buffs	11
Crowne, Kowloon	5
Brewster, Buffs	4
Nash, R.G.A.	3
Morrish, R.E.	3

REFeree.

THE KOWLOON CUSTOMS REPORT.

Mr. A. H. Harris, Commissioner in charge of the Chinese Imperial Customs at Kowloon, in his Report for 1908 makes the following reference to the foreign trade:

Foreign goods entered China from Hongkong via the Kowloon stations during the year 1908 to the value of Hk. Tls. 30,979,381, an increase over the previous year's figures of over 1 million taels. Cotton goods show decreases under most headings, with the exception of white shirtings, and more especially cotton thread, which continue to advance satisfactorily. Business in piece goods has been dull owing to the high exchange. Indian cotton yarn passing our stations has dropped to 458 piculs, a fall of over 50 per cent. on the figures for 1907 and the lowest amount recorded in our archives since 1903. Yarn appears to have shared in the general disturbance in commercial dealings caused by the fluctuations and continual fall in silver. The bulk of the trade in this district is carried by steamship to Canton, and of which we have no cognizance. The local trade in the Indian production has advanced considerably during 1908. The dis-favour into which, from various causes, Japanese yarn has fallen materially assisted Bombay. It has been stated that the Indian yarn consigned to southern Chinese ports and to Tonkin, through Hongkong as the distributing centre, has reached some 220,000 bales during the course of the year, the estimated value being \$24,750,000. Of the items under metals, yellow metal sheets, iron and mild steel, nail-rod, and lead in pigs and bars show increases, while iron and mild steel sheets and plates, old iron and mild steel, and steel in bars and plates have declined. It must not be forgotten that the tendency to employ foreign-flagged lighters towed by steam-launches to carry machinery, metals, oils, etc., cuts considerably into the native junk trade. This traffic appears to be on the increase and calls for further regulation than has yet been accorded to it. Business in metals has been dull owing to high gold exchange rates. American kerosene oil has risen from 169,855 gallons in 1907 to 453,020 gallons, while Russian has fallen over 60 per cent. to 241,975 gallons and Sumatra by nearly 50 per cent. to 604,175 gallons, the latter figures being a little over a quarter of that passing through our stations in 1905. It is understood that the better class of Chinese object to the odours thrown off by the two latter oils. No Burma oil was imported by junk. Owing to present fiscal conditions many of the delta districts are, I understand, served from Canton, but they could be more conveniently supplied from

Hongkong direct were it possible to make the necessary revenue arrangements. Prices during the latter part of the year rose considerably owing to the drop in value of silver though the actual gold price had slightly fallen. It has been rumoured, though not authenticated, that the rise in price of kerosene oil per case during the latter part of the year was due to an understanding between the Standard Oil and Asiatic Petroleum Companies not to allow prices to fall below a certain figure. The importation of foreign rice has fallen from 4,548,202 piculs during 1907 to 3,495,370 piculs. Paddy has fallen from 1,037,906 to 667,901 piculs. Cuttle-fish decreased over 60 per cent., and the figures are the lowest recorded, largely due to the want of a market for the fish usually imported from Japan. Rice, bran, dried and salt fish, ground-nuts, sapanwood, white sugar, timber, and leaf tobacco show substantial decreases. It is stated that one of the principal causes of the decrease in ground-nuts (imported chiefly from Java and neighbouring islands) from 171,756 to 70,283 piculs (the lowest figures since 1902) is the erection of two machine oil presses at Rangoon, whence ground-net oil is exported to China. Coal recovered to the standard of previous years. Rattans have increased over 100 per cent., showing the highest figures since 1902.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

PRINCE ITO ASSASSINATED.

Tokyo, October 26th.

Prince Ito was assassinated this morning at Harbin while alighting from a train on his arrival from Mukden. A Korean fired two revolver shots, wounding Prince Ito mortally, and seriously injuring Mr. Tanaka, the director of the South Manchurian Railway.

Later.

Prince Ito was shot at eight o'clock in the morning and died in the afternoon. Mr. Tanaka is slightly injured, but Mr. Kawakami, the Japanese Consul General at Harbin, is wounded seriously.

Later.

Prince Ito, who was welcomed by the Russian Minister of Finance, and entered a carriage together, was suddenly accosted by a Korean who fired, hitting Prince Ito in the breast.

Mr. Kawakami and Mr. Tanaka, who were also shot, fell to the ground.

The Korean assassin was instantly arrested. Prince Ito, Mr. Kawakami and Mr. Tanaka were removed to the Russian Hospital, where Prince Ito died at 10 o'clock this morning.

Tokyo, October 27th.

Fuller particulars now to hand regarding the assassination of Prince Ito at Harbin state that the Korean assassin was a Roman Catholic convert. He fired several shots in quick succession, and when arrested he said he had accomplished what he had come for: he had avenged the wrongs of his country.

Two bullets pierced the Prince's lungs and a third the abdomen. His Excellency did not speak after being shot, except to inquire about the condition of one of his injured companions.

He was carried to his carriage and attended by his personal physician. The body was an hour after the Prince expired placed in the train by which he had travelled, for conveyance to Dalny, and will be brought from there to Japan on the cruiser *Iwate*.

The newspapers hardly realised the assassination yesterday, but to-day there are overwhelming expressions of sorrow.

Later.

Contrary to expectation, there has been a departure from official etiquette, the death being officially announced this afternoon as having occurred on the 26th inst.

Simultaneously an Imperial Ordinance was issued directing that national honours should be accorded at the funeral.

This is an unprecedented tribute to one who is not of Royal blood.

The warship conveying the body is due to arrive at Yokosuka on the 2nd prox., and the funeral will take place on the 4th.

Russia has handed over the assassin to the Japanese authorities for trial in Korea.

[The reference to etiquette in the above telegram requires the explanation that it has not been customary in Japan to announce a death which has occurred abroad until the body has been brought back to Japan. This course was followed when Prince Arisugawa died in Formosa.]

Tokyo, October 28th.

The most significant effect of the assassination of Prince Ito is the general opinion among Japanese of the necessity for the annexation of Korea. Yesterday the Foreign Office made a statement deprecating such sentiments, and stating their policy would remain unchanged. As an example of the sentiment prevailing among Japanese journalists at Seoul a meeting was held at which they passed a resolution in favour of annexation and demanding that the Emperor of Korea should visit Japan and apologise to the Emperor of Japan. I learn on good authority that the leading articles in the Tokyo papers have been censored.

Lord Kitchener visited the body at Mukden.

COMPANY MEETING.

NORTH CHINA INSURANCE CO., LTD.

The sixth annual general meeting of the above-named company was held at their offices on the Bund at 4 p.m. yesterday. There were present Messrs. W. D. Little (Chairman), H. De Gray, A. Hide, J. N. Jameson, A. McLeod and W. Meyerink (Directors), Messrs. J. M. Young, C. M. Bain, A. C. Hunter, C. W. Wrightson, J. Sampson, G. E. Burgoyne, Qua Sang, and Chu Ching-son (shareholders) and Mr. H. G. Sims (Secretary), representing 720 shares.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said:—The report and statement of accounts for 1908 having been in your hands for some time, with your permission we will take them as read. The business before the meeting is: The passing of the report and accounts; the declaration of a final dividend and bonus to contributors; the placing of Tls. 75,000 out of the year's working account to underwriting reserve, closing the account for 1908; the election of directors and auditors for the next working year. The wisdom of continuing to build up our reserve, you will, I am sure, approve of, as in the best interests of shareholders and policy holders alike. The chief feature of 1908 working was restricted trade, which has naturally had its effect on our gross income. Our expenditure is somewhat higher owing to some changes in the staff, and the allowances made to retiring officers, which we debited direct to working account. On the other hand, our losses are well below those for 1907. Trade during 1909 having improved in some directions, our premium income has so far shown an increase over the same period in 1908. For some time past there has been a good deal of talk with reference to improving rates, and although I cannot say that our figures have so benefited, there is a more hopeful feeling, and underwriters, so I am informed, are more inclined to work together and hold out for fair rates. It is to be sincerely hoped that some practical results in this direction will follow in the near future.

There being no questions,

Mr. W. D. LITTLE proposed, Mr. H. DE GRAY seconded, and it was carried—That the report and accounts as now presented be accepted and passed.

Mr. W. D. LITTLE proposed, Mr. A. McLEOD seconded, and it was carried—That a final dividend of 7½ per cent. on the paid-up capital and a bonus of 15 per cent. upon contributory premiums be distributed, both payable at Ex. of 2/3¼ per Tael. Tael 75,000 to be transferred to Silver Reserve Fund, and the balance transferred to underwriting reserve account, closing the account for 1908.

Mr. J. M. YOUNG proposed, Mr. C. M. BAIN seconded, and it was carried—That Messrs. Little, Jameson, McLeod, De Gray, Hide, and Meyerink be re-elected directors of the company and that the remuneration of the directors be Tael Six Thousand per annum.

Mr. A. C. HUNTER proposed, Mr. C. W. WRIGHTSON seconded, and it was carried.—That Messrs. Wingrove and Hayter be selected auditors of the company.

The CHAIRMAN said this concluded the business of the meeting. Dividend warrants would be posted on Wednesday. He thanked all present for their attendance.

Mr. SAMPSON proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Sims, their secretary, which he deserved, having had an uphill fight in bringing the company to its present position. The motion was carried with acclamation.

Mr. SIMS returned thanks on behalf of the staff and himself.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE CHINESE ENGINEERING AND MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of The Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Ltd., will be held in London, on the 27th October, when the Directors' Report and Accounts for the Financial Year ending 28th February, 1909, will be submitted.

EXTRACT FROM DIRECTORS' REPORT.

The net result of the year's transaction shows a balance to the credit of Profit and Loss Account of £204,868 made up as follows:

Net Profit after providing for all charges in China £244,000,
Add balance brought forward from last year £ 3,929
Gross receipts in London 968

4,897
Total £248,897
Deduct expenditure in Europe,
Salaries, stores, etc. £ 7,023
Debentures, interest 23,988
Debentures, redemption 10,000
Directors' fees 3,018
44,029

Leaving a net balance of £204,868

Which the Directors recommend should be appropriated as follows:

In placing to reserve for depreciation (making a total reserve of £215,000) £ 40,000
In paying a final dividend of 1s. 6d. per share (free of tax) payable 2nd November, 1909 75,000
Making a dividend of 15 per cent. for the year with the interim dividend of 1/6 per share paid on 1st May, '09 75,000
Directors' per centage on profits in accordance with the articles of association 6,094
Income tax 7,339
And carrying forward 1,435

£204,868

COMMERCIAL

IMPORTS.—

COAL

HONGKONG, October, 14th.—The arrivals of coal since the 15th inst. amounted to 27,500 tons of Japanese. The coal expected is 36,900 tons Japanese, 8,000 tons Hongay, and 4,500 tons Borneo. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff.....\$21.00 to 22.50 ex-godown, nominal.
Australian...\$10.50 to 12.50 ex-godown, nominal.
Yubari Lump...\$12.00 Nominal.
Miki Lump...\$10.50 to 11.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump.....\$7.75 to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreamed\$6.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump...\$8.75 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.
Labuan Lump...\$9.00 ex-ship sellers.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 29th October:—The prices are advancing a little, holders being firm.

Saigon, Ordinary\$5.05 to \$5.10
" Round, Good quality 5.10 " 5.15
" Long..... 5.20 " 5.25
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2... 5.5 " 5.10
" Garden, " No. 1... 5.25 " 5.30
" White..... 5.35 " 5.40
" Fine Cargo 5.45 " 5.50

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, October 26th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New\$1,250/1,280 per picul.
Malwa Old\$1,290/1,320 do.
Malwa Older\$1,330/1,360 do.
Malwa Very Old\$1,370/1,400 do.
Persian Fine Quality\$1,100/1,050 do.
Persian Extra Fine\$1,160/1,180 do.
Patna New\$1,300 per chest.
Patna Old\$1,280 do.
Benares New\$1,330 do.
Benares Old\$ — do

HONGKONG, Oct. 28th.—We beg to continue our advice of the 14th inst., since when the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian

Stocks on the 14th Oct., 1909—1,451½ 1,873 1,032 919
Oct., 15th Imports per *Laisang* — 190 — —
" 22nd " "A. Apear — 660 250 —
" 27th " "Devanha 18 20 — 217

1,469½ 2,743 1,282 1,136
Less Exports to Shanghai .. — 270 130 —
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight... 205 461 271 222

Estimated Stocks this day .. 1,264 2,012 881 914

Bengal.—Deliveries have not been satisfactory during the past few days, but in sympathy with a further rise in Shanghai prices here have advanced to \$1,310 for Patna and \$1,325 for Benares. The volume of business has been small.

Malwa.—The market is firm at the following quotations:—New, \$1,225/50; 2 years, \$1,270/1800.

Persian.—The quotation of \$1,120. is unchanged.

YARN.

HONGKONG—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 29th Oct., states:—Business is much quieter, but still fair sales can be effected if small concessions are made. Importers, having somewhat eased their stocks, and strengthened by telegraphic advices from Bombay are now less eager to sell, whilst dealers having in hand sufficient yarn to carry them over for some time are indifferent and a temporary lull is for the moment being experienced. There is, however, a fair future for the article, as with the prospect of an abundant rice crop, and with a change of weather for the better an improvement in all branches of trade is confidently expected. Meanwhile the market closes quiet, but prices on the whole are fairly well up to previous quotations, which do not allow much for the depreciation in exchange. Bombay is reported strong with a good business passing on the basis of annas 6½ for No. 10s and annas 7½ for No. 20s, which leave a small margin of profit to the Mills, whilst only the other day it was calculated that every pound of yarn manufactured was losing half an anna. Sales of the fortnight aggregate 4,95 bales, arrivals amount to 4,871 bales, unsold stock estimated at 16,000 and sold but uncoloured yarn in second hands 30,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—Sales of 50 bales No. 8s at \$117 and of 450 bales No. 10s at \$119 are reported. Japanese Yarn:—Nothing doing. Raw Cotton:—New Indian Cotton is shortly expected. A parcel of 250 bales New China staple has been taken up at \$38 to \$38½. Meanwhile the market is bare of stock of both descriptions. Quotations are Indian \$32 to \$38 and China \$35 to \$39. Exchange on India closes to-day at Rs. 129½ for T/T and Rs. 129½ for Post. On Shanghai 74½ and on Japan 84. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 23rd inst., viz.:—Indian:—Demand has greatly fallen off, sales aggregating only 3,500 bales with an estimated stock of 52,000 bales, market closing quiet with an easier feeling. Japanese:—Are easier in sympathy with the Indian article, and about 2,000 bales are reported to have changed hands at Tls. 103 to 113 for No. 16s and Tls. 118 to 123 for No. 20s. Local:—There is no falling off in the demand and yarn can be easily placed. Sales about 4,000 bales at the basis of Tls. 101 for No. 10s, Tls. 105 for No. 14s, and Tls. 109 for No. 16s.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai, 22nd Oct., 1909, state:—There is perhaps rather more enquiry in the market for goods generally, but the prices suggested by buyers are for the most part so inadequate that very little business has resulted. The fall in Exchange has not helped the situation any more than the advance in Cotton, though both factors are pulling in the same direction this time, that is, in widening the breach between the ideas of buyers and sellers. The dealers have the control over so large a proportion of the stock that it is impossible in any way regulate sales against their manipulations. It will doubtless come as a surprise to some to know that business for the Spring has commenced in staple makes of Manchester Grey goods. The exact nature of the transactions have not transpired, but they consist of goods that were bought some time back for late shipment. From native sources we learn they are 12-lbs 36 inch goods, the prices being Tls. 5.20 and Tls. 5.25. The tendency amongst holders, however, is to hang on to what they have, considering the high replacing cost and the impracticability of getting anything near that offered now. There is therefore very little doing from first hands, but the dealers are still reselling with some freedom, especially American makes, which are being bought for Tientsin and Newchwang at rather better prices. An inquiry for these goods has also been met with from Vladivostok, though that still remains a closed port. Whether or not they are intended eventually for Manchuria is a moot point, it is, however, reported on good authority that the boycott against Japanese goods is increasing instead of decreasing in that Province, and great discontent is becoming manifest at the very inadequate service which is being maintained on the South Manchurian Railway, or at all events that which is available by the outside public. The River trade keeps fairly brisk, supplies being drawn chiefly from the Auctions. The Manchester market remains in the same position as regards this so far as staple makes are concerned, though it has been possible to book a few Fancy makes at more reasonable prices. The Liverpool Cotton market has kept very strong, Mid American being 7.47d, for spot and 7.19d. January/February option. Egyptian has advanced to 10½d. The Export for the first fortnight this month of Plain Cottons to Hongkong and China was nine million yards only. It is now reported that a considerable portion of the export during the past few months has consisted of consignments made by Manufacturers who could not obtain the prices they wanted at home. We can scarcely credit this, however, knowing this market as they must. Cotton in New York has advanced more than in Liverpool, the latest quotations being 13.80 cents for December, 13.76 cents for January and 13.86 cents for March. Very high quotations are still prevailing, for Domestic. Duck's Head Sheetings, for instance, 13/-, the equivalent of Tls. 5.80. The Yarn market has gathered strength by the decline in Silver rates, and buyers have shown more willingness to meet the views of holders. The chief demand is for Szechuen, though there are signs of an impending demand for the Northern markets. Clearances have kept up remarkably well. Cotton is weaker, the stock on hand being freely offered in view of the lower prices likely to prevail for the new crop. The sales from stock made privately do not cut a very large figure in the market. They are mostly of a retail character, the demand being purely from hand to mouth. There was one exception, however, namely, a line of 200 bales English Grey Jeans, but the price is not published. The enquiry for these goods is brightening up again. In American makes the only private sale that has reached us is a small lot of 3 yard Drills under a private chop, Running Stag chop, at Tls. 4.80. The purchases for Vladivostok were 300 bales Indian Head Sheetings at Tls. 5.12½, 200 bales Pacolet Drills at Tls. 5.10, and 100 bales Pepperell Drills Tls. 5.30, though we have since heard Tls. 5.32½ has been done. A re-sale of 1,000 pieces Whitney Sheetings were bought for Corea at Tls. 5.00. For the North business has been done with second hands amounting to about 1,500 bales Drills and Sheetings for Newchwang and some 2,000 bales for Tientsin, all at slightly higher prices. Perhaps the best indication of the market is to be found in the Auction prices, which mostly show a decided higher range in Grey Goods, though in Whites previous rates were not maintained in many cases. Turkey Reds realised steady to firm prices, while Fast Black Cotton Italians show considerable improvement. Steady prices were paid for Venetians, fast black and coloured, while the coloured Lastings and Italians realised about previous prices.

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 29th October, 1909.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—			
Grey Shirtings—6lbs. piece	\$2.00 to	2.10	
7 lbs. "	2.50 to	2.60	
8.4 lbs. "	3.00 to	4.25	
10 lbs. "	4.10 to	5.80	
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..	2.90 to	3.20	
58/60 ..	3.30 to	5.50	
64/66 ..	6.00 to	8.00	
Fine.....	5.50 to	10.00	
Book-folds ..	3.50 to	6.50	
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..	0.70 to	2.10	
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	2.10 to	2.40	
7 lbs. "	2.50 to	3.20	
6 lbs. "Mexicans..	—	—	
7 lbs. "	3.85 to	4.20	
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	3.10 to	4.35	
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ } to 14 lbs. }	4.85 to	6.20	
FANCY COTTONS—			
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to } 6 lbs. piece }	1.90 to	4.75	
Brocades—Dyed	yard	0.12½ to	0.16
Chinese—Assorted	"	0.09 to	0.30
Velvets—Black, 22 in.,	"	0.26 to	0.55
Velveteens—18 in.,	"	0.25 to	0.28
Handkerchiefs — Imitation } ilk per dozen }	0.70 to	1.50	
WOOLLENS—			
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	yard	0.70 to	2.00
German,	"	2.00	—
Habit, Medium & Broad Sloths ..	"	1.25 to	3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece	"	7.80 to	9.40
Assorted ..	"	7.90 to	9.40
Camlets—Assorted ..	"	—	—
WHEATEN FLOUR—			
Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } Assorted	"	14.00 to	21.00
Orleans—Plain.....	"	9.00 to	12.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	lbs.	0.60 to	1.50
RAW COTTON—			
Bombay	picul	\$30.00 to	\$34.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon ..	"	30.00 to	33.50
and Dacca.....	"	30.00 to	37.00
Shanghai and Japanese....	"	35.00 to	38.40
Tungchow and Ningpo ...	"	—	—
METALS—			
Iron—Nail Rod.....	picul	\$ 4.15	
Square, Flat, Round Bar (Eng.)...	"	4.05	
Swedish Bar	"	4.20	
Small Round Rod	"	4.50	
Hoop, ½ to 1½ in.,	"	5.60	
Wire, 16/25 oz.,	"	9.50	
Old Wire Rope.....	"	3.00	
Lead—L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ...	"	—	
Australian	"	9.40	
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/28 oz. ...	"	40.00	
Vivian's, 16/32 oz., ..	"	40.00	
Elliot's, 16/28 oz. ...	"	40.00	
Tin,	"	90.00	
Tin-Plates,	box	7.50	
Steel	cwt. case	—	
MISCELLANEOUS—			
Quicksilver,	picul	184.00 to	185.00
Window Glass,	box	5.40	
Kerosene Oil,	case	—	
Saltpetre, No. 1	picul	\$11.80 to	12.20
Do. No. 2	"	10.90 to	11.60
Do. No. 3	"	9.10 to	10.40
Dayton, per bag of 50 lbs.	gross	\$2.65	
Brown Bear	"	2.62	
Choice	"	2.62	
White Lily	"	2.62	
White Fawn	"	2.61	
Morjon	"	2.61	
Cow	"	2.61	
Private Brands	"	2.61	

EXPORTS:—

CAMPHOR

HONGKONG, 29th October:—The above market is at a standstill and prices remain as last quoted.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Ceylon*, sailed on the 22nd October, 1909:—Glasgow.—100 casks ginger. For New York.—268 bales pierced cocoons. For Marseilles.—3 bales human hair. For London.—622 bales pierced cocoons, 1 case silks, 150 rolls matting, 258 cases preserves, 150 casks preserves, 173 package tea, 4 cases chinaware, 3 cases clothing and curios, 3 cases naval stores, 1 case blackwood ware, 2 cases cigars, 1 case carpets, 1 case porcelain.

Per steamer *Albenga*, sailed on the 23rd October, 1909:—For New York.—20 cases cantharides, 50 cases preserves, 75 cases human hair, 10 cases essential oil, 112 bales old rubber shoes, 200 cases gallnuts, 305 bales cane, 1,015 bales broken cassia, 1,071 packages Chinese cargo, 1,250 packages crackers, 1,965 cases cassia, 10,297 rolls matting. For Boston.—367 packages Chinese cargo. For Boston and New York.—20 cases human hair. For Washington.—170 packages Chinese cargo. For Havana.—60 packages Chinese cargo. For Baltimore.—795 rolls matting. For Columbus, Ohio.—519 rolls matting.

Per M. M. steamer *Sydney*, sailed on the 26th October, 1909:—For Lyons.—191 bales raw silk: for Options, 156 bales raw silk. For Milan.—10 bales raw silk. For Havre.—35 cases human hair, 40 cases bristles. For Marseilles.—10 bales waste silk, 35 cases human hair, 5 cases feathers, 15 cases ylang ylang, 8 cases hats, 4 cases silk piece goods, &c., 1 case porcelain, 50 cases provisions.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 29th October, 1909.—The market continues dull and we have but little business to report. Rubbers also remain quiet and more or less neglected. Local rates generally continue to show a downward tendency and sellers of most stocks rule the market. Exchange on London 1/8 11/16, T/T and on Shanghai 7½.

BANKS.—With the exception of a few small sales of Hongkong and Shanghai at 99½ and 99½, we have nothing to report. The London rate for Hongkong and Shanghai has fallen to £91.

MARINE INSURANCES.—North Chinas are now quoted in the North at 105. Cantons have changed hands at 162½, ex dividend, and Unions at 84½, the market generally closing dull under this heading.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas continue in a small demand at 114, but sellers at 116 rule the market. Hongkongs are neglected at quotation.

SHIPPING.—Some small sales of Hongkong and Macao have been put through at 31. Indo-Chinas are wanted at 60, but shares are not readily forthcoming to meet the small demand. Shells have declined in London to 7½, and locally to 7½/6. Other stocks under this heading call for no remarks.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled steady and after sales at 146, 146½ and 147 in the early part of the week close with buyers at 148. On time sales have been made for December at 148, 148½ and 150. Luzons remain without change or business.

MINING.—Raubas rule weak at 8 with sellers. Langkats have backed and filed between 820 and 750 during the week, closing at 770 for December settlement. Chinese Engineerings are without change and with no business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks remain totally neglected but with sellers at 55. Kowloon Wharfs changed hands in the early part of the week at 64, and later at 63½, closing with some small sellers at the latter rate. Shanghai Docks after ruling weak in the early part of the week have improved to 77 in the North. Hongkew Wharfs remain unchanged.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Small sales of Hongkong and Kowloon Lands have been made at 104, the market closing steady at that. West Point's with an unsatisfied demand at 41 have improved to 43 with buyers, and no shares appear to be available except at a further advance. Humphreys have found buyers at 9, but sellers still rule the market. Hotels are in request at quotations but no shares are available.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have further improved in the North to 149. Internationals to 92 and Laon Kung Mows to 112. Soychees remain at 460.

RUBBERS—The market has ruled very quiet, and with the exception of sales of Anglo-Malays at 15/, Cas 1 fields at 5 1/2, and Ledbury's at 50/, we have nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS—Cements have changed hands in fairly large lots at \$7, the market closing with buyers at that rate and with sellers at a little higher. China Lights have been negotiated in unimportant lots at 5 1/2 and China Providents at 9 1/2. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$995, sellers
National B. of China	26	\$65
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	12/6d.	\$10, buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$12 1/2, sellers
China Light & P. Co....	\$10	\$5 1/2, sales
China Provident	\$10	\$9.50, sales & buy.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 50	Tls. 149, buyers
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$6
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 88
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 110
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 460
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$6	\$16 1/2
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$63 1/2, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$55, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$9, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 77 1/2
S'hai & H. Wharf....	Tls. 100	Tls. 139
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$11, sellers
G. Island Cement Co	\$10	\$7, sales & buy.
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$10	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Electric....	\$10	\$20 1/2, sellers
Hongkong Hotel Co. {	\$50	\$72 1/2, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.....	\$25	\$43 1/2, buyers
H'kong Rope M. Co....	\$10	\$180, sellers
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$162 1/2, x.d. al. & s.
China Fire	\$20	\$114, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$92, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$375
North China	25	Tls. 105, x. div.
Union	\$100	\$45, sales & sel.
Yangtze	\$60	\$230
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$104, sales
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$9, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30, sellers
Shanghai Land.....	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
WestPoint Building	\$50	\$43, buyers
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	Fr. 250	\$625, buyers
Raub	18/10d.	\$8, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd	\$10	\$13 1/2, sellers
Philippine Co., Ltd....	\$1	\$14, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$148, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$23, sellers
Robinson Piano Co. ...	\$50	\$50, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$8 1/2, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33, sellers
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$31, sales & sel.
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	\$41, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$19, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	71/6, buyers
Star Ferry	\$5	\$14 1/2, sellers
South China M. Post...	\$25	\$23 1/2, buyers
Steam Laundry Co....	\$5	\$5 1/2, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M & Co....	\$10	\$12
Wm. Powell, Ltd. ...	\$7	\$3 1/2, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.....	\$10	\$5, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Weissmann, Ltd.....	\$100	\$150
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12 1/2, sellers
Union Waterboat Co....	\$10	\$300
Rubbers—		
Castlefields, fully p.	—	52/-, sellers
Ltnggis	—	24/-, buyers
Anglo-Malays	—	15/-
Shelfords	—	36/-, sellers
Balgownies	—	\$69 1/2 (Straits), sel.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

18th October, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$1,025, sellers
National of China...	26	\$65, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R187 1/2	Tls. 125
Insurance:—		
Union Society C't'n	\$100	\$850, sellers
North-China	25	Tls. 103, ex div.
Yangtze Assocn. ...	\$60	\$230, sales
Canton	\$50	\$175, sellers
Hongkong Fire.....	\$50	\$370, buyers
China Fire.....	\$20	\$113 buyers
Shipping:—		
Indo-China { pref. }	25	Tls. 43, buyers
Shell Trans. { ord. }	21	\$23.11.6
& Trading { pref. }	210	\$29.10.0
S'hai Tug & { pref. }	T50	Tls. 41, buyers
Lighter ... { ord. }	T50	Tls. 53, buyers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 45
Kochien Transporta-	T50	Tls. 47 1/2, sales
tion & To Boat		
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng...	T100	Tls. 76, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$55, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf...	T100	Tls. 139, sales
H. K'loon W. & G...	\$50	\$62, buyers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 200, sellers
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation...	T50	Tls. 335, se lers
China Refining.....	\$100	\$146, buyers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian ...	21	Tls. \$8 1/2, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	21	Tls. 20 1/2, buyers
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment...	T50	Tls. 120, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$104, sales
Humphreys' Estate	T10	\$9 1/2, sellers
Weiheiwei	T20	Tls. 9
China	T50	Tls. 50
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 106, sales
Plantations:—		
Kalumpang Rubber	T50	Tls. 230, buyers
Chempedak	...	Tls. 14, sales
S. R'ber Estates ...	T100	Tls. 295
T. R. & T. Estate Co.	21	Tls. 18, sellers
Dominion Rubbers..	T6	Tls. 13, buyers
Shanghai - Sumatra		
Tobacco	T20	Tls. 107, buyers
Cottons, etc:—		
Ewo.....	T50	Tls. 149, sales
Internationals	T75	Tls. 92, buyers
Laou Kung Mow ...	T100	Tls. 112
Soy Chees	T500	Tls. 460
H.C.S.W.D.Co., Ltd.	\$10	Tls. 6 1/2
Shanghai Cotton ...	T50	Tls. 76, sales
Eastern Fibre	210	Tls. 10
Industrial:—		
Maatschappij, & Co.,	Gs. 100	Tls. 800
in Langkat.....		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 105, sales
Major Brothers.....	T50	Tls. 52 1/2
Shanghai Ice.....	T25	Tls. 15
China Flour Mill ...	T50	Tls. 59, sales
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 35, buyers
Green Is. Cement....	\$10	\$8, sellers
S'hai Waterworks...	220	Tls. 425, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	\$100	\$82 1/2, buyers
A. Butler Cement,		
Tile Works	T50	Tls. 23 1/2, sales
Shanghai Electric		
Construction.....	210	\$6.10.0 sales
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber	T100	Tls. 75
Shanghai Electric &		
Asbestos	\$25	\$20 1/2, sellers
China Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50
Stores:—		
Hall & Holtz.....	\$20	\$23, buyers
A. Llewellyn.....	\$60	\$65
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Central Ordinary ...	\$15	\$17, buyers
Central Founders...	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co....	\$50	\$40
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$26, buyers
Lane, Crawford & Co.	\$100	\$165, sales
Dunning & Co.....	\$50	\$35
Hotels:—		
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$19, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$72 1/2
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 5 1/2
Tsingtao Hotel	\$100	Tls. 75
Miscellaneous:—		
S'hai Horse Bazar...	T50	Tls. 55
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 67, sellers
Dallas Horse Re-		
pository	T50	Tls. 25

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending October 21st state:—Owing to the interest taken by the brokers in the case before the Court—Tackey versus McBain—the business for the past week has been very limited. Langkats, as will be seen below, fluctuated very considerably. Cotton Stocks continue strong at quotations, and are keenly inquired for. The T.T. rate on London is 2/3 1/2. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. No business reported. Marine and Fire Insurance.—No business. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. On the 21st Sales were made at Tls. 43 cash and Tls. 44 1/2 December. Sugars.—Peraks changed hands on the 15th and 16th at Tls. 345 December. Mining.—No business. Docks and Wharves.—Nothing reported. Lands.—Nothing reported. Plantations.—Tebongs. Business was reported on the 15th at Tls. 17 1/2 cash and on the 18th and 19th at Tls. 18 December. Dominions changed hands on the 15th and 21st at Tls. 13 cash, and on the 15th at Tls. 16 for fully paid shares. Kalumpungs. On the 18th business was done at Tls. 232 1/2 December. Kroweeks. On the 21st were quoted at Tls. 17 cash. Shanghai Sumatras. On the 15th changed hands at Tls. 109 December, and Tls. 112 1/2 January. On the 18th at Tls. 110 December and on the 21st at Tls. 110 December. Cottons.—Sales of Ewos were reported on the 15th at Tls. 248, Tls. 149, Tls. 150, Tls. 150 1/2, Tls. 152 and Tls. 151 1/2 Dec. On the 16th at Tls. 151 1/2-Tls. 152 December and Tls. 148 cash. On the 18th at Tls. 152 December. On the 19th at Tls. 149 cash. International Cottons. On the 16th found buyers at Tls. 93 December. On the 18th at Tls. 92 cash and Tls. 94 December. Shanghai Cottons. On the 16th these were done at Tls. 68 cash and Tls. 69 for December. Laou Kung Mows. Shares changed hands on the 16th at Tls. 114 1/2 and Tls. 115 for December. Industrial.—Maatschappij, & Co., in Langkats. The market opened on the 15th at Tls. 850 December. On the 16th business was done at Tls. 830 cash, on the 20th at Tls. 760 December, and on the 21st at Tls. 780. Tls. 790, Tls. 815 and Tls. 820 for December. Stores and Hotels.—No business. Loans and Debentures.—No business.

EXCHANGE.

Hongkong, October 29th.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8 1/2
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	218
Credits 4 months' sight	222
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	177
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	43 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129 1/2
Bank, on demand	129 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129 1/2
Bank on demand	129 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	75 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	84
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	85
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	73 1/2
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	104 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	7 1/2 p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	7 1/2 p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	88 1/2
FOREIGN, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.55
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$60.00
BAR SILVER per oz.	23 1/2

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 6th Oct.—Per Conference Steamers to London and Northern Continental ports, 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre, 47/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), General Cargo, 32/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G \$1.50 cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G \$1.75 cents per lb gross, plus river freight. To Shanghai.—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 2.50 per ton, weight or measurement.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 29th October.—During the past fortnight there has been a good demand for tonnage, and rates in several directions have improved. From Saigon to this, 8 cents nominal; to Philippines, 21/25 cents according to quantity; to Java, no fixtures reported. From Java to this, a handy sized boat has been closed, but the rate is kept private. From Newchwang to Ca ton, 26 cents last and offering; to Amoy, 26 cents last. Coal freights are firm. From Moji to this, \$1.90 last; Wakamatsu to Hongkong, \$2.00 last; Canton, \$2.50. Time charters. The *Frithjof*, *Victoria* and *Pronto* have been closed for the Haiphong/Hongkong trade, and the *Solstad* and *Standard* for cattle trade between Indo China and the Philippines.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October:—

ARRIVALS.

- 22, Calchas, British str., from Liverpool.
- 22, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
- 22, Kai Ping, British str., from Chingwantao
- 23, Daigi Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
- 23, Haiyang, British str., from Swatow.
- 23, Monmouthshire, Br. str., from Shanghai.
- 23, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
- 23, Wakamatsu M., Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
- 24, Austria, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
- 24, Chinhua, British str., from Shanghai.
- 24, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 24, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 24, Mathilde, German str., from Hoihow.
- 24, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 24, Minnesota, American str., from Seattle.
- 24, Nijni Novgorod, Rus. str., from Odessa.
- 24, Nord, British str., from Singapore.
- 24, Wingsang, British str., from Chefoo.
- 25, Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
- 25, Benalder, British str., from Moji.
- 25, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 25, Glenfalloch, Br. str., from Singapore.
- 25, Kumeric, British str., from Seattle.
- 25, Sydney, French str., from Yokoham.
- 25, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Macassar.
- 26, Chinkiang, British str., from Chefoo.
- 26, Clara Jebson, German str., from Rangoon.
- 26, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.
- 26, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
- 26, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 26, Kalgan, British str., from Chefoo.
- 26, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
- 26, Nikko Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
- 26, Poona, British str., from London.
- 26, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
- 26, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
- 27, Bingo Maru, Jap. str., from Antwerp.
- 27, Chenan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 27, Devanha, British str., from Bombay.
- 27, Glenogle, British str., from Rangoon.
- 27, Helene, German str., from Tourane.
- 27, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from H'phong.
- 27, Sandakan, German str., from Sourabaya.
- 27, Silvia, German str., from Hamburg.
- 27, Soshu Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
- 28, Benarty, British str., from Singapore.
- 28, C. Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
- 28, Derwent, British str., from Saigon.
- 28, E. of China, British str., from Vancouver.
- 28, Fitzpatrick, British str., from Shanghai.
- 28, G. Apcar, British str., from Moji.
- 28, Haitan, British str., from Amoy.
- 28, Signal, German str., from Sourabaya.
- 28, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.
- 28, Tjibodas, Dutch str., from Moji.

October:—

DEPARTURES.

- 23, Albenga, German str., for Singapore.
- 23, Aldenham, British str., for Shanghai.
- 23, Atholl, British str., for Singapore.
- 23, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 23, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 23, Hanoi, French str., for Q. Chow Wan.
- 23, Hirano Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 23, Kaifong, British str., for Amoy.
- 23, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 23, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 23, Laissang, British str., for Singapore.
- 23, Taikoson Maru, Japanese str., for Dalny.
- 23, Ujina Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
- 23, Vorwarts, German str., for Haiphong.
- 23, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
- 24, Anghin, German str., for Bangkok.
- 24, Brisgavia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 24, Calchas, British str., for Shanghai.
- 24, Fausang, British str., for Newchwang.

- 24, Glamorganshire, Br. str., for Singapore.
- 24, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
- 24, Haldis, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 24, Kansu, British str., for Chinkiang.
- 24, Linan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 24, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
- 24, Nanshan, British str., for Swatow.
- 24, Tsintau, German str., for Bangkok.
- 25, Armand Behic, French str., for Shanghai.
- 25, Chiyo Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
- 25, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 26, Chopsang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 26, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 26, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
- 26, Hopsang, British str., for Hongay.
- 26, Monmouthshire, British str., for Manila.
- 26, Oceano, British str., for Keelung.
- 26, Sydney, French str., for Europe, &c.
- 26, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 27, Chipshing, British str., for Weihaiwei.
- 27, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 27, Hakata Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 27, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
- 27, Locksun, German str., for Swatow.
- 27, Nikko Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 27, Tean, British str., for Manila.
- 27, Yunnan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 28, Arratoon Apcar, Br. str., for Shanghai.
- 28, Austria, Austrian str., for Singapore.
- 28, Chinhua, British str., for Shanghai.
- 28, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 28, Devanha, British str., for Shanghai.
- 28, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
- 28, Hangchow, British str., for Amoy.
- 28, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
- 28, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
- 28, Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
- 28, Poona, British str., for Takao.
- 28, Silvia, German str., for Taku.
- 28, Thordis, Norwegian str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Gregory Apcar*, from Moji, Mr Shant.
- Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Dr. Raslae and Mr Gorgon.
- Per *Catherine Apcar*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr D. M. Henderson.
- Per *Haitan*, from Amoy, Messrs A. A. Brown and H. W. Livingstone.
- Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Mrs and Miss Winrow and Dr. Roesike.
- Per *Chinhua*, from Shanghai, Mrs Gilette, Messrs Gilette, Harrop and Nielson.
- Per *Monmouthshire*, from Shanghai, Mrs. Anderson, 3 children and amah, and Capt. Looker.
- Per *Haiyang* from Swatow, Mrs. White and child, Messrs Robjohn, Keith, Barton, Rinstiner and Master Barton.
- Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs Siebuschier, Messrs H. E. Williams, R. Wolf, R. E. Rednall and D. C. Fraizer.
- Per *Austria*, from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Hoes, Mr and Mrs Hoing, Mr Friedrich and 2 family, and Mr F. M. Finnemore.
- Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Mrs Olwider and child, Miss M. C. Jorgansen, Messrs Strong Rose, Jenkins, C. de Castro and J. de Castro.
- Per *Hakata Maru*, from Japan, &c., Major and Mrs De La Bere, Mrs C. H. Moberly and infant, Mrs H. H. Waller, Mrs M. Kitora, Mrs J. L. Berk, Mrs T. W. L. Bruce and Miss Mekechine.
- Per *Bingo Maru*, from Antwerp, &c., Mrs G. Robinson and child, Mrs E. N. Burn, Mrs N. Burn, Misses A. Benning and A. Stokes, Dr. A. N. de Gruchy, Master B. Little, Messrs J. C. Clark, F. F. Chevally and C. W. Mark.
- Per *Changsha* from Australian Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, Mr and Mrs. Bruce and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Clymo, Mrs. Kimpton, Mrs. Gibson and children, Mrs. A. Hueber, Mrs. Goode, Capt. Jamieson, Messrs. St. Leon, Hayes, Gill and Richardson.
- Per *Yawata Maru*, from Japan, &c., Mrs and Miss C. Magues, Lieut. S. L. Hazard, Sir Henry S. Berkeley, Messrs A. L. Robertson, K. Kato, I. Nakazawa, K. Saito, Y. Takatsu, R. M. Camacho, Y. Tourmall, S. Fukuchi, T. Lekerey, Gurdasmal and K. Kubo.
- Per *Nikko Maru*, from Melbourne, &c., Capt. and Mrs Wm. G. Townsend Currie, Mrs R. M. Elwin, Misses I. Gage, W. Gage, E. Thacker, Fulford, E. Jansen and C. Andrews, Messrs Spalding, W. Gage, A. B. Crew, Reichmann, F. W. Rudd, K. Oshima, D. Silvers and J. H. Newbold.

Per *Chenan*, from Shanghai, Mrs Blair, Mrs Lloyd Jones, Dr. Gano and Mr Howard.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Hidalgo, Mrs Dreyfus and Mr Saturninos; from Singapore, Mr Kolas; from Saigon, Mr and Mrs Carpin Gommelot, Mrs Jeanne Sonesse, Messrs Sydney L. Cohan and Freynet.

Per *Sydney*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Mr Diss; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Caushaas, Mr and Mrs Logan, baby and amah, Mrs Wilkinson, Miss Anna Habig, Captain R. O. Ruthergund, Messrs Harris and boy, Sydney Haywood, Percy Millard and boys, Zamo, Cengo, Smith, Hochmann and Merienne.

Per *Empress of China*, for Hongkong, from Vancouver, B.C., Mr and Mrs H. Hancock, Mrs T. Beckett Russel, Misses G. Hulet and Silman; from Yokohama, Messrs A. B. Rouse and C. E. H. Beavis; from Kobe, Mr and Mrs M. W. Slade, 2 children and nurse, The Earl and Countess of Macelesfield and maid, Major W. E. Walker and Mr W. Harvey; from Nagasaki, Mr and Mrs Bilbrough and 2 servants, Messrs S. Okada and T. Tanaka; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs J. Boyce Keep and servant, Dr. J. Whiteley Kew, Dr. Otto Schreiner, Capt. F. Kofod, Messrs H. N. H. Mody, K. A. Dowler, J. C. Mance, B. Layton and servant, R. W. Archer, H. Fowler, M. Baggallay and Jas Holland.

Per *Devanha*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr and Mrs Hallifax, infant and amah, Miss Chrystie, Messrs A. E. Dunrich and H. V. Parr; from Marseilles, Mrs Harris, infant and servant, Mrs Abbott, Messrs E. S. Lindsey, E. H. Hamilton, P. Malcolm, J. Smith and E. G. B. Lover; from London, for Manila, Mr O. Tweeth; for Shanghai, from London, Mr & Mrs Barlow Wheeler and infant, Mr and Mrs Hunt, Mr and Mrs Sinclair and infant, Mrs and Miss MacDougall and infant, Mrs Millard, infant, child and servant, Miss E. H. Hamilton, Rev. L. D. M. Wedderburn, Messrs D. MacGregor and G. C. Barry; from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Hutton Potts, infant and nurse, Mrs Peebles, Misses Anderson and Ascherson; from Bombay, Mr S. T. Clarke; from Colombo, Mr Prior; for Yokohama, from London, Messrs S. Stafford and C. Stafford; from Marseilles, Messrs Paul Nippon, Abbott, S. T. Cohn and servant; from Bombay, Parvudas Tehalkon and servant; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs D. S. Campbell, infant and ayah, Mrs Spooner, Messrs G. and C. Putram; from Brindisi, for Manila, Capt. and Mrs Tidball.

DEPARTED.

Per *Zafiro*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs Logan and 2 children, Mrs A. B. Smith, Mrs M. E. Avery, Mrs F. Simcock, Mrs C. D. Brooke, Mrs Geo. Shaw, Mrs Botelho, family & servant, Mrs Elser and infant, Mrs Deal, Mrs Smith and 2 children, Mrs Apple, Misses E. Spichor, Woods, J. Corsenga and Yang, Revs. G. Zwart, J. Jansen, Verky, van Mansfield, F. Rudiferia and A. Landy, Capt. Apple, Messrs H. G. Smith, Charles Rantz, R. Connell, S. Martinez, J. F. Hart, A. Aster, A. Tillman, P. van Loon, A. J. van Hest, A. M. Muskeas, A. J. H. Herts, De Lepper Micholas, J. Croomer, A. Ryken, W. J. Schellekens, T. B. Scholler, J. de Visser, G. T. Lloyd, Calder Smith, C. D. Thompson, Wm. Hir, Ludwig Reichass, J. T. Morgan, E. Brown, L. Andranch and Anderson.

Per *Chiyo Maru*, for Shanghai, &c., Mr and Mrs Robt. Riddell, Mr and Mrs L. Knox, Mr and Mrs F. C. Bhesania, Capt. and Mrs James Totten, Major and Mrs A. G. Adair, Major and Mrs P. H. Eastwick, Mrs M. L. Macomber, Mrs C. Curtis, Mrs F. Pine, Mrs E. E. Rogers, Mrs Geo. L. Byron, Mrs H. L. Lewis, Misses E. Rogers, E. and F. Curtiss, Cornelia Byron, E. J. Lambert, F. E. Laprieto and N. L. Coffin, Lieut. J. W. Kram, Sir Paul Chater and servant, Messrs E. W. Newell, E. H. Browne, J. W. Terreforts, A. Boehne, A. C. Clear and servant, S. Otani, T. W. S. Phillips, J. Goggenheim, C. F. Osborne, P. Morris, John H. Martin, W. L. Lawton, J. H. McKenzie, A. J. Mitchell, T. F. Hough and servant, E. Lyons, H. B. Graybill, M. Harra, B. Nagamatan, S. Ochi and Dupree.

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